

THIS MONTH: 118 OKLAHOMA BBSs

DECEMBER 1994

BOARDWATCH

MAGAZINE

Guide to Electronic Bulletin Boards and The Internet

World Wide Web - The New BBS

NetScape WWW Browser

Head and Shoulders
above the rest

Ig Nobel Prizes

Science gone awry

Laptop Survival Kit:

All you need to know
to survive as a road warrior

Genealogy Online

Family Roots by Wire



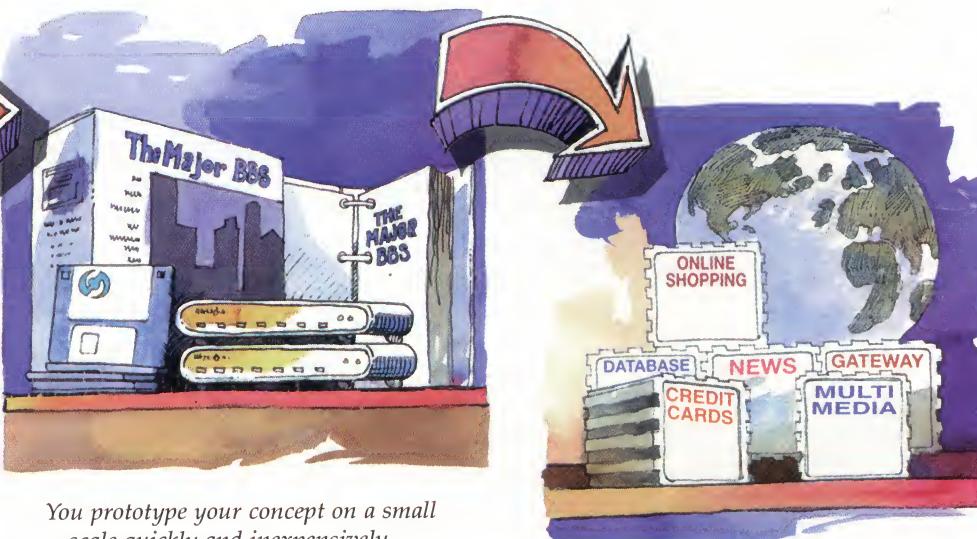
White House Web Site on the Internet



You are the cybervisionary.



You start with a brilliant idea...



You prototype your concept on a small scale quickly and inexpensively...

You smoothly integrate multi-user applications as you need them...

You have a **vision**. Bring your company online. Tie the workgroups to the customers. Distribute all kinds of information and electronic media. Or maybe launch a new business in cyberspace.

You need more than just a BBS — you want **an open platform** for creating your own online service. A system that is tailored to your mission. And nobody can do it better than you.

Start Right the First Time

The Major BBS® Version 6.2 gives you everything you need to **get started**: e-mail, forums, polls, file libraries, QWK, teleconference, a user registry, and more. Right away, you can plug in one or two modems in a DOS-based 386 or better and go online.

Customize your look and feel with the built-in Menu Tree™ and text block editor. Use Locks and Keys™ security for intuitive access control. Create unlimited user classes for accounting and system management.

Enjoy auto-generated **RIP graphics**, MHS importing/exporting, full multilingual support, time analysis and user reports, CD-ROM utilities, remote Sysop management, "doors" to an auxiliary

machine, an activity audit trail, auto-cleanup and timed events — hundreds of special features designed to make your life as Sysop a **success**.

But that's just the beginning...

Expand Your Horizons

Next, you can integrate a wide array of add-on options. Installation is as easy as "A:INSTALL". The Major BBS takes full advantage of **DLL technology** to dynamically link these features into your system.

For instance, **Fax/Online** lets you provide outgoing fax-mail and fax database services to your users. **Search and Retrieve** gives you a full document database, with support for graphics files and fax attachments. And **Internet** mail and newsgroups can pipe right in with the **Major Gateway/Internet** package.

Other DLL extensions available from Galacticomm include **Shopping Mall**, **The Major Database**, **Entertainment Collection**, **Dial-Out**, and a special version of the **RIPaint** GUI design tool.

Use the Menu Tree designer to place these new options in the most convenient location. **Full security control** lets you decide which users will have access.

And because these DLLs are written in C and Assembly, they provide far greater **performance and flexibility** than script languages or xBASE derivatives.

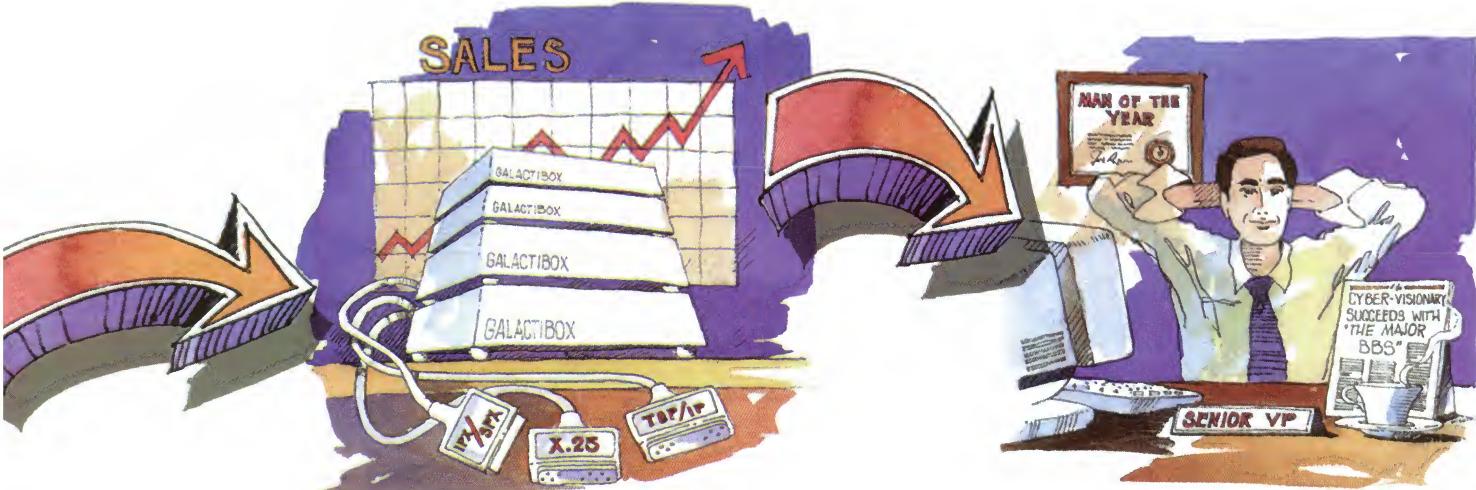
You Need It? You Got It...

Over 150 independent software vendors offer a wealth of products you can cleanly add to your system as DLLs. Plug in software such as:

- multimedia document servers
- MLS photograph databases
- credit card verifiers
- FIDO, QWK, RIME mail support
- online bidding networks
- employment classifieds
- 1-900 payment and tracking
- interactive multiplayer games
- worldwide "chat" networks
- automatic call-back verifiers
- contact management databases
- alternate user languages
- photograph dating services
- online purchasing systems
- satellite news delivery
- remote management tools
- and much, much more...

Each of these products integrates directly into your system, taking full advantage of our **open architecture** and

We just provide the tools.



As you grow, you add more lines, hook up your LAN, connect to the Internet...

And you experience the success of your own, unique online service.

multi-user environment. No other BBS platform gives you this power.

"Doors" even let you interface to client/server databases and other DOS applications, as well as the programs written for multinode BBSes.

With the Freedom to Grow

As your system takes off, you can add more lines without the headaches of multitaskers or stacks of computers. Simply add User Six-Pack licenses and hook up more modems.

ONLY THE MAJOR BBS GIVES YOU THE POWER TO SUPPORT OVER 100 SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-SPEED USERS ON ONE PENTIUM-CLASS MACHINE.

In performance tests reported by *Boardwatch Magazine*, The Major BBS handled 104 simultaneous file transfers at 14.4 modem rates (1750 cps), and over 64 at 28.8 modem speeds (3300 cps). In most real world cases, even more simultaneous users are possible.

You can use multiport hardware such as the GalactiBoard and GalactiBox to easily manage huge numbers of internal and external modems. (Galacticomm is the only BBS manufacturer with multi-

user hardware design experience.) The Major BBS also works smoothly with non-intelligent hardware by vendors such as DigiBoard and Boca Research.

And Connectivity For All

Only The Major BBS gives you the ability to support modems, serial connections, IPX/SPX LAN channels, direct X.25 circuits, and TCP/IP sessions — all on one computer. Each channel group can have different menu branches and security controls, at your option.

The *Advanced LAN Option* lets you create a bank of channels that will dynamically accept calls from computers around your office — directly through your Novell LAN.

You can also provide national and international access at low cost via the X.25 Software Option and a PC XNet card — you avoid the inefficiencies and expense of a PAD.

And our new *Internet Connectivity Option* lets you integrate a TCP/IP stack directly into your BBS. You don't need a separate machine to provide telnet in, telnet out, FTP client, and FTP server features to your users. Anonymous FTP and Internet surcharges are also supported.

A Bright Future Awaits You

There are few limits to what you can accomplish with The Major BBS. The full C source code to the BBS is available, to give you the ultimate flexibility. Write your own add-on options, or tweak a particular function to your exact needs.

And to address the needs of very high-end applications, Galacticomm has launched a UNIX technology division to provide The Major BBS platform for minicomputers to supercomputers.

Integrated solutions, consulting, and custom development are available from *Ambassador* dealers worldwide. World-class support is available to you via voice, fax, BBS, CompuServe, and the Internet. A quarterly magazine called *The Major News* provides you tips and tricks, as well as a resource for third-party products and services. And regular software improvements bring you the latest in online technology.

For more information, give us a call at 1-800-328-1128 (or 305-583-5990 outside the U.S. and Canada). And let's turn your visions into reality.

 **GALACTICOMM**

DECEMBER 1994

BOARDWATCH

MAGAZINE

Guide to Online Information Services and Electronic Bulletin Boards

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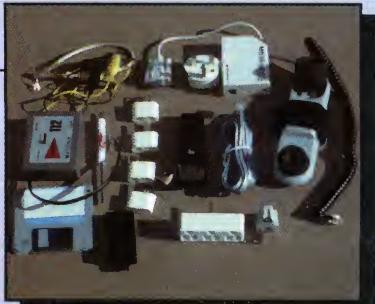
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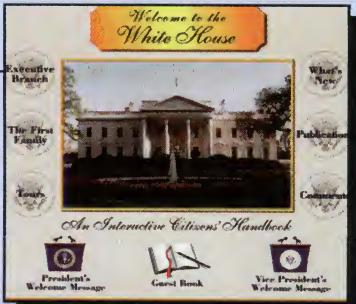
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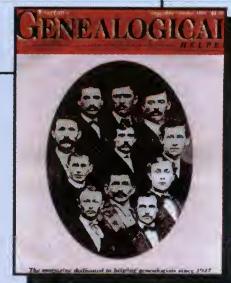
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room full of computers to get it. For years, TBBS

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BBS software. It still does. To prove it, we put all types of BBS software in a room and tested them. As the graph on the left

shows, the closest competitor can't deliver half the speed and power of TBBS 2.3. To complement its speed and power,

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smooth expandability – on the minimum

hardware possible. So scaling up as your

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and expertise in the industry. You can buy 64 user TBBS 2.3 for \$1,995 (*32 user for \$1,495, 16 user for \$895, and 4 user*

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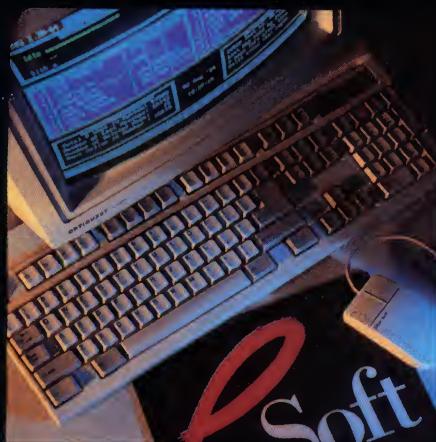


- In addition to complete documentation, TBBS comes with a 40 minute installation video tape.
- Number of simultaneous, full-speed ZMODEM downloads at 38.4 kbps on a single P5/60 CPU.



► The test was conducted in the eSoft Testing Lab. Each PC represents one BBS user.

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- The high reliability of TBBS means its power won't turn on you. No babysitting required.
- TBBS' unprecedented flexibility lets your BBS talk to your callers in their language.





EDITOR'S NOTES

WEBULISM AND THE CABLE FABLE

Ok. I've got web fever.

We're in the midst of a weblosion and I have personally had a webulism. And it's time to admit it in public. My name is Jack Rickard and I'm a webuloid. It's been 90 minutes since my last webulism episode. But I can't help myself.

Yes, we have covered the World Wide Web in numerous past issues going back prior to the existence of most magazines today purporting to cover the Internet. And we were pretty early with the Mosaic article. But I was a closet skeptic about WWW for a number of reasons.

1. It smacked of information. A little secret online is that nearly everyone likes to look at a bit of information now and again. But it isn't what most people perceive. Aside from a tiny percentage of online info-addicts and researchers, a few hours of information consumption and most of us are just about underwhelmed by it all. Knight Ridder, Prodigy, and a number of others have made fatal or near fatal mistakes in thinking that what the online public wanted was pretty screens with pre-canned information. There is no indication of success. What people DO do online is communicate - with each other. And they acquire software. If it doesn't include one of these two elements, it generally fails.

2. It's a bandwidth hog. The world wide web was designed for and by people with University links that are free and of wide-pipe design. Mosaic and the World Wide Web are pretty, but they are terribly piggish about bandwidth. The result is the most amazing perceptual threshold reversion you will experience, the translation of a compressed 28.8 kbps V.34 modem link to appear for all intents and purposes to be about 300 baud. We're back at the beginning.

3. There was nothing under the sheets. There's really no software involved here. A document with pointers that sends you to and fro. We need databases for substantive information if information is again the real

game. And we need to interact with it usefully. Web servers read files and respond to commands. And not much else.

4. Statistically nobody can do it. The numbers of people ON the Internet widely vary depending on your interpretation of what ON the Internet means. But an IP connection with sufficient bandwidth to actually DO any of this narrows the focus considerably. News flash. There AREN'T 20 million people who can do that. There aren't 10. There aren't five. There may be ONE million people who could if they really wanted to. Most of the online community gets left out of the party as it stands now.

But Mosaic has served as a catalyst and the web is flashing into something very different from what it was. This appears that it will BE the way people and institutions put up bulletin boards in the future. And a few of the reasons I'm now suffering from webulosis:

1. Mosaic and the Web are evolving. You can now spawn off into a telnet session, or an ftp session to retrieve a file by tying your ftp or telnet program into Mosaic and clicking on a telnet or ftp reference. More importantly, we are seeing COMMUNICATIONS start to play a role. The Netscape Mosaic featured in this issue of Boardwatch is a profoundly engaging piece of software - largely because we are starting to see other applications brought in under the same icon. USENET newsgroups in Mosaic? Why not? Why not e-mail? Why not Internet Relay Chat? That you can NOW read Newsgroups and actually click on HTTP Universal Resource Locators embedded IN messages and BE there is illustrative of how this is really something DIFFERENT. But it can contain all the elements of file acquisition and communication without strain. The formation of the W3 Consortium by Tim Berners-Lee to help standardize all of this and create a stable infrastructure for doing business should be a big plus.

2. It changes the model. The wall between one BBS and another dissolves at the whisper of a datagram through a cable. Click on a word and you have accessed another BBS across the planet. Chat, public discussions, - it all becomes globally a

common ground. It even changes how we count things. Calls aren't calls. Nobody is ON anything actually. They just hit sites for files and move on to others. Everyone a client and server or client or server or both or all four.

2. Servers are evolving. Similarly, we are seeing signs of intense development on the server end. Significant databases, forms processing, order processing, financial transactions, encryption, - ultimately any software could operate under the auspices of a web server. That's different from squirting documents. And it's unlimited.

3. Institutional Acceptance. The limp ANSI graphics of existing bulletin board technology just wasn't at all appealing to TIME Magazine, other major publishers, and large institutions. Additionally, the vagaries of hundreds of telephone lines and hundreds of modems was also not attractive to those wishing to operate large services. A single T1 they can conceptually handle. The graphic interfaces that WERE acceptable were always proprietary - Ziff Interchange makes waves, but it is a single service. Web/Mosaic provides the same function in a universal global network. I wonder how THAT will come out.

TIME Magazine, the Library of Congress, The White House, the Louvre, they're already up and they already look great. TIME actually has message areas (kind of like bulletin boards) on theirs, back issues, graphics, and gateway services to other interesting Web sites. It's a superb effort out of the gate, and we have to believe they think they can improve it from there. Institutional America has already voted, and it's over. Get a web.

Our initial reaction on looking this over this month was that we had missed the party. The web looked completely different than it did just six months ago. But in reality, this all happened in ONE MONTH - October. It looked like someone had set off a web bomb. I would guess the number of web sites essentially doubled in the last 30 days.

And it is enormously exciting in a number of ways. An entire frontier of software development and "tool building" lies before

us with this model. As we mentioned last month, the emergence of WINSOCK makes the development of software applications relatively trivial. But the juice is in perceptual changes caused by tiny "tricks" that can change the way we do things. The http link in newsgroup messages is just one example. It's not something you can explain precisely and it isn't even technologically difficult enough to be a "development." But you have to do the "click" part a few times to get it. It's all different and you can feel it become different in that moment - enormous juice in that feeling. Perception thresholds crossed twice an hour.

That leaves access and bandwidth. That will continue to be the big problem for most potential Internauts for the immediate future. But longterm, I'm not even certain I'm still bandwidth worried. We may have some unexpected help on the horizon.

I had the privilege to read a rather lengthy statement from the head of TCI, the nation's largest cable provider, listing all the reasons Direct Broadcast Satellite was not a threat to existing cable companies. I was unaware they WERE a threat until I read this utterly ridiculous statement that was "whistling in the dark" so hard and fast it formed its own style of comedy. So I looked a little further into Direct Broadcast Satellite. A consortium of GM Hughes, RCA, and somebody else (who knows) has put up these higher powered digital satellites transmitting essentially everything that is on cable now. The dish is about the size of a large pizza, and right now costs \$700-\$900. And there is no ghosting or the usual cable problems that no one talks about because they are like the weather and the cable company won't answer the telephone anyway. In any event, you pay a monthly fee, just like cable, but the picture and sound are much clearer (digital). There's some funny things that happen when it loses a little signal, (the screen appears to disassemble and eat itself) but it works. I called around. It's already here. Everyone carries them already. But actually, you can't get one at any price. They're already sold out, and there is a waiting list - everywhere. They just aren't available. Soundtrack has them right across the parking lot here. Or at least they have one you can look at and a waiting list you can get on. RCA claims they are making 100,000 units a month and can't catch up with demand.

Understand how this works out. Anywhere in the country. Rural. Urban. Upstairs. Downstairs. On a time frame based on all these stores reordering and the manufacturers gearing up to meet the demand. Consumers are much smarter than most

people give them credit for. Marketeers are all a few IQ points LESS gifted than most people give them credit for. DBS dish prices will fall. Digital pictures. Hmm. DBS is how we will get broadcast TV folks. It's already over. We just weren't paying attention.

So I get it. Cable is dead. And the TCI document was really an explanation as to why no respiration, heartbeat, or skin color actually didn't precisely mean dead conclusively. It just meant not feeling well. Feeling so unwell, in fact, that it looked dead.

But there is a lot of RG cable in the ground. And the cable companies DO have precisely ONE card to play in their hand. It is POSSIBLE (expensive, but possible) for them to put in the switching equipment to allow two-way communication over that cable at a pretty handsome data rate. Kind of like a T1 line to the home - maybe better actually if anyone spent any time looking at it. DBS can't do that. And these multibillion dollar companies just generally don't early on accept the idea of closing the doors and sending everybody home. The office furniture auction alone would take months. All cable ventures into data delivery to date have been unabashed failures in all respects. But I still have hope.

Performance System International is actually experimenting with cable delivery of IP. But they think this MAKES them the phone company and aping the goofy they are pricing it over **\$100** per month for the service. Good luck guys.

So, we have telephone companies wanting to deliver video to the home in an orgy of wishful thinking based on Blockbuster revenues they won't get and can't have even if they COULD deliver it. We have cable companies that do deliver it but screw everybody that comes within range to the floor. True, there is some market for on-demand movies as most of the broadcast channels are being taken over by an endless series of infomercials anyway. But it isn't enough for cable or telcos to live on much less both.

And suddenly, there are a couple of hundred channels of clean digital TV landing on your front yard, you need a dish the size of your cowboy hat to catch it, and it will ultimately cost about **\$300** for the dish and receiver. We seem to have a little bit of overcapacity headed our way.

So sure, I'd pay **\$30** per month for a T1 to the net or its equivalent in bandwidth. The telco can do it. The cable company can do it. Their future in video is a bit limited. It has to happen.

The remaining thing that bears watching is equality of stance on this network. Ideally, everyone who is a consumer online should have the potential to also be a provider on the network. Anyone should be able to run a web site from their home or company. I'm pretty certain that's not going to be an issue. Someone will try to put in the fix. But they'll lose again.

If so, this IS the BBS of the future. That may upset some, and it may gladden some. It does not augur particularly well for large services such as CompuServe and AOL unless they suddenly get in the business of providing SLIP accounts. And apparently they will. Delphi is already talking about doing it. CompuServe has announced they intend to provide IP connections to "businesses" initially. And those operating for-profit smaller bulletin board systems are already moving toward offering SLIP/PPP connections as a revenue producer. Kevin Behrens of Aquila BBS in Chicago ([telnet aquila.com](telnet://aquila.com) or <http://www.aquila.com>) put in a full Sprint T1 and started selling SLIP in the Chicago area this month. You might note likewise the bbs.channel1.com and gateway.execnet.com and execpc.com addresses as well. It's happening. And the telcos have taken a sudden shine to actually deploying 64 kbps ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) with even US Worst announcing service. Between existing BBS services, commercial services, and ISDN, the access/bandwidth problem may get marginally better over the course of the next year. Longterm, cable tv companies could provide the equivalent fractional T1s to the home at very low rates.

All of this will change the concept of what a BBS is in the hobby/commercial BBS community - though not as much as many will initially fear. But it will affect us all. We've been talking about making the Internet connection within the pages of Boardwatch for nearly four years now. You have either heard or you have failed to hear. It's time. It's actually going to be a VERY good time in cyberville. Lock and load.

Jack Rickard
Editor Rotundus.
<http://www.boardwatch.com>





Letters to the Editor

Boardwatch Magazine
8500 W Bowles Ave Suite 210
Littleton CO 80123

Greetings Editor of Rotund fame and fortune

I had the pleasure of bumping in to you at ONE BBS CON a couple times. I could imagine how busy you were so I just said "Hi". The thought I had was how great it must feel to look around at what you and Phil have created. Last year at Colorado Springs, I was a new sysop. My system, The Independent Filmmakers Forum, in Long Beach, California, (modem number 310-425-0012) had been on the air but three months. I was completely blown away by the energy, the information, the scope of the online world. This year was unbelievable. I was in massive input mode last year; this year I met many great folks and got as much critical information from incidental conversations as from the classes! I look forward to Tampa next year and hope my system has grown up into one of the "players" by then.

The Independent Filmmakers Forum is dedicated to providing a networking medium for people in or aspiring to the entertainment industry. It is an 8 line system running WildCat. The inspiration for the theme came from my friend and co-sysop whose avocation is independent movie production. Networking is extremely difficult for those outside the Hollywood mainstream. The idea grew into an online forum where callers can post their ideas, needs, availability, and projects. It has already produced several meetings between people putting projects together. In one case, a caller connected with someone looking for a photographer to do a photo shoot for a European magazine. The caller then posted several messages that got him investors in the project. His pictures have since appeared in the magazine. Areas of interest include film, video, TV, music, Black Cinema, Women in Film, and theatre. It is an exciting theme. We offer tickets for private pre-release screenings of movies through an arrangement with a film PR firm. A local multi-media production company has listed CDs and video tapes for review. The possibilities are endless.

As you are well aware, getting the word out is the most difficult part. After a year and a half, the BBS is starting to get noticed. A real focus for me at ONE BBS CON was the marketing and promotional sessions. Now, all I need is a LOT of time, and a lot of money wouldn't hurt, either. Guerilla marketing lessons are key.

PC Week, August 29 issue, has an article about a company in Holland that has come up with an approach to your theme of "digital cash". They call it E-cash and it's based on Public Key Cryptography tech-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123; by fax to (303)973-3731 or by e-mail to letters@boardwatch.com.

nology. Check it out. The August 29 issue of Network World has a great, full page profile of Tom Jennings, the creator of FidoNet. A fascinating story. If you are interested and can't find either or both of these, reply and I'll send them to you.

In closing, I just wanted to say the first time I read Boardwatch was the beginning of my sysop career. Keep doing what you do so well, and all of us out here will gladly help you create the new world. Log in on 310-425-0012 some time.

Sincerely,

Philip Matuzic
Sysop - The Independent Filmmakers Forum

◆◆◆

Philip:

ONE BBS CON has grown to the point where it poses some problems. Actually, the founder of the company in Holland is David Chaum, and he was at ONE BBS CON to do a session on "digital cash." Online money is an ongoing issue, and we'll be following it in the future.

The Independent Filmmakers Forum is precisely the type of special topic system we're enamored with here at Boardwatch. Good luck with the system.

Jack Rickard

◆◆◆

Hello,

I'm a Wildcat SysOp and I've been searching through cyberspace for a Wildcat BBS news group to subscribe to. Any one have an address to subscribe? Does such a newsgroup exist? Enquiring Minds want know!

If there isn't a Wildcat newsgroup a bbs newsgroup address would do.

Thanks!

Bob Reynolds
SysOp Hambone's Fish House
(804)665-7906
bob_reynolds@ccmail.gsfc.nasa.gov

◆◆◆

Bob:

Would an alt.bbs.wildcat conference do you any good? A lot of Wildcat! enthusiasts seem to find it useful.

Jack Rickard

Jack,

I want to express the desire for a new "rule" for the BoardWatch Top 100 BBS contest. Prodigy should not be counted, as they are not Bulletin Board Systems. I saw on Software Creations that Prodigy's Genology BB was in the top 5 or 10. I almost screamed my head off, as there are no System Operators for Prodigy.

BBS's are a large amount of blood, sweat, and tears and a huge chunk of money. All Prodigy's "Board leaders" have to do is be there. They don't maintain hardware, they don't upgrade software, they have software that handles unruly users (by discarding their message) and more. True SysOps have to fight with users crying about the rules, no matter how few there are. Fight with hacked/pirated uploads, kill the profane, off topic message posted by LIGHTING FLASH.

As a SysOp, that irritates the hell out of me just to see Prodigy even being able to be considered for voting. It makes us real SysOps look like fly specs, seeing someone who does nothing beat us in the polls. I don't know, nor do I care, if I was on the list, or if my board even got a vote, but it still irritates the hell out of me.

Joe Eversole, SysOp - HearthStone
INTERNET: joe.eversole@ibmnet.com

◆◆◆

Joe:

You speak with authority on a topic you clearly know squat about. Sysops on the commercial services differ so slightly from independent BBS operators that I can't quite tell the difference. They DO have to deal with all of that - to about the same degree as any independent BBS operator. The one difference is they are relieved of some of the technical details of delivery by modem over telephone lines, and I find that a poor and even dangerous differentiation. You may well find yourself delivering HearthStone BBS over cable television, the Internet, a combination of the two, radio, or even via Prodigy before all this is over. If a BBS operator is primarily a geek who knows how to configure a modem, he would be a dull creature indeed. If you don't think LIGHTING FLASH is on Prodigy, you've just never logged on there.

It sounds like you were born to be irritated the hell out of, and I'm most pleased to accommodate.

Jack Rickard

Jack,

I just finished reading your article on the CIX happenings. I am one of those 'mom & pop' operations you talked about. I open my doors Sept 1st to the public with a full blown T1 and a few dozen dial in Centrex lines.

My relatively smallish calling area threatens PSI and UUNET? What hogwash. PSI, UUNET and people my size exist only as long as Sprint, MCI and others allow it, as we are grains of sand on their beach. Was it really that long ago that the PSI's and the UUNET's started out not much bigger than us? I must have missed the policy that stated: "In the event of NSFNet's death, CIX becomes god". Do Rick and Marty truly believe that Sprint and MCI will even tolerate CIX once it becomes a nuisance to them? This whole arrangement is bad for the entire Internet, not just for the mass of providers. If the dirty duo succeed in enforcing this, what would stop them from enforcing their tyrantical ruling upon the end users of the Internet.

Furthermore, this would also be a stepping stone to metered usage and other nasties.

How did they settle on the \$10,000 fee? Is it \$10,000 per Class C address, or other method? If each member pays \$10,000 a year per, this amounts to a pretty decent hunk of change. What happens to these funds? Sprint is a member of CIX, isn't my IP traffic covered? How are they going to filter IP coming from within CIX members?

I didn't really write this for you to print, and it probably isn't worth it as I'm just rehashing your comments. I just wanted to type at someone who knew what was going on, and might have some answers.

Keep up the good work. Yours is a voice of reason, most of the time. *grin*

Sincerely,

Cale Hollingsworth, President
HolliCom
cale@walnut.holli.com
"Connecting North Central Indiana to the world"

♦♦♦

Cale:

Your concerns are mine as well, but there have been a couple of developments. The fee was reduced to \$7500 for 1995. The path filtering set for November 1 was tabled at least until March. And if I don't miss my read, Marty and Ricky have moved parsecs toward making themselves irrelevant. In response to your direct question concerning membership fees, they go almost in their entirety to PSI (Marty) - a fact not entirely missed at the CIX meeting. The CIX meeting in Atlanta was widely regarded as a disaster, and most of the membership seem to see it as the end of the trail for CIX.

I'm not certain that is actually a scene for celebration. What we have here is a vacuous void of leadership among Internet Service Providers. I was stunned and shocked at the lack of information structure

among these people, and the total lack of vision and leadership among their ranks. But the CIX concept was a needed good to establish the concepts of peerage and no-settlement connections without which the concept of an "Internet" makes no sense at all. And it was and still is a relatively radical concept.

But I guess my take on it is that little Ricky and little Marty blew their own virtual brains out in public this September 14th past, and it didn't even make much of a mess. There is little reason to join CIX, and they are essentially irrelevant at this point.

Sprint has stumbled onto quite a little formula by selling Internet access at all levels without the restrictions on resale and an incredible percentage of Internet connections already pass through their little portal. I am a little uncomfortable with the concept of Sprint owning it all, and I'm most pleased to see MCI enter the game this month. If we could get one other major player in the game, Internet connectivity could be most ubiquitous, and most interesting, by this time next year.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

Jack,

Gee I hope you didn't put me in the "Feminazi" category when I wrote last. I'm FAR from it. However, you wanted to know why women seem to be backwards computer-wise. There are probably more reasons than the ones I will offer, but they were the first to come to mind.

1. Women who have families and work outside the home don't have the time necessary to devote to learning computers. They essentially work 2 full time jobs and have a total of about 19 hours of "free" time per month. I think they spend that with the kids.

2. If they're married and there's only 1 computer in the house, then they usually have some male person standing over their backs sucking in air like they are seeing their life pass before their eyes every time the wife touches the computer. This can have a profound effect on trying to learn about computers.

The other issue was what made NVN so friendly? For one, you could reach customer service if there was a problem without being on hold forever (if you can even get past a busy signal). And even before I became marginally well-known on the service they knew who I was, or at least pretended to. They also tried to structure forums as best they could within the system allowing for interests to have their "own" space. Another thing is that there were OLR's in place BEFORE they changed the rates giving the membership PLENTY of time to acquire and learn one before the rates went up unlike one major online service I can think of. The message areas weren't so arcane in their set up as one other major service that comes to mind. But were they in the same league as Compuserve? No. Were they wannabes? Probably. But the service as a whole was not really dedicated to the serious computer user, which would turn off a lot of people.

The computer oriented forums were a joke and when suggestions were made to some of the sysops in order to attract more users, they were politely ignored. The craft, collecting, food, family, and genealogy areas were very popular with literally hundreds of messages posted daily, but they were very loosely monitored and it was always by actual users, not paid staff.

What was really nice was that I was able to download EVERY message ever posted to the forum of my choice, not just the last couple of days or weeks. This was regardless of the

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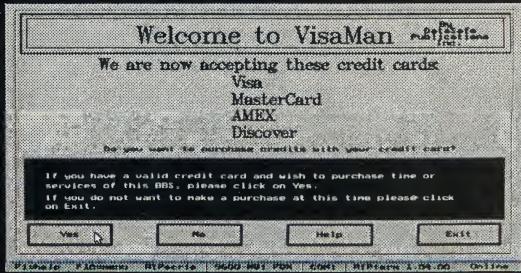
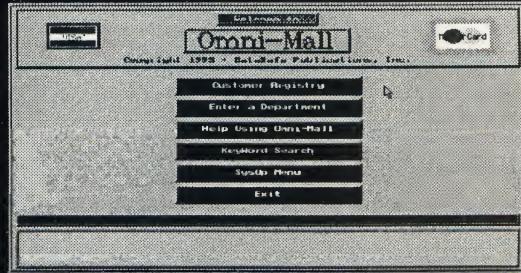
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amount of messages generated in a particular forum.

I never deluded myself about it's size or it's importance in the realm of online services. I do think it was largely ignored by people who should have done their homework when writing about various services in publications that the general public would read about computers.

I am sorry that the plug was pulled and how it was done. It showed a definite lack of class on the owner's part and left my registered users with a useless program.

After reading your magazine for the last couple of issues, I would now know automatically that your were joking about not knowing "what the hell is a NVN". It is obvious you spend a great deal of time educating yourself in your area of expertise. However, IMHO you seem to be in the minority. I read LOTS of things written by so-called experts in the computer realm that obviously know just enough about the subject they are writing about to be dangerous mainly because it takes a great deal of time and reading just to keep abreast of the technology and most of them don't take the time to do the reading (besides articles being dated by about 6 months, which might as well be 6 years). I don't think it was necessarily stupid for that to be assumed of you by the other writers from NVN. However, I didn't make that assumption about your knowledge of NVN, only about machine knitting (where you *did* display enough of your knowledge of knitting machines to be dangerous, but not very accurate {\$10000 in equipment...WHERE did you get THAT figure?}) I was trying to answer your question about women and why a disproportionate number were in "leadership" type positions on NVN, why I felt I was given a fairer shake than I might have been on another service, and injecting a little humor while I was at it.

I guess I will have to keep buying the magazine to see the next installment by you of our ongoing discussion about women and computers...

AMY.STINSON@INDY.COM

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Amy:

No, I didn't place you in any categories actually, and for once in my misspent life wasn't being facetious. There is nothing inherently "male" about computers that I'm aware of. I worked for some time in the Data Systems division of a large aerospace company - lots of Cobol mainframe geeks trying to make the transition, and I would say a bare majority of professionals in that department, were indeed women and at all levels of the hierarchy. Some were near brilliant. It's actually been a pretty productive career field for many women. And I don't find women at all inherently "computer backward."

The online venue itself among bulletin boards and online services has no technical methodology to even accurately detect gender - to the point where it becomes a problem. But we've consistently measured

female participation online in the 11-12% range for the past three or four years with no real movement there at all.

My question was not only not frivolous, I'm pretty sure it was of the million-dollar variety. If you can tell me, I can nearly enough convert it to cash. Innumerable friends and associates operating bulletin boards, and online services from Prodigy down would cough blood to know.

I have no doubt the burdens of running a home, raising children, and working fall unfairly on women. I don't know how to change it, and the whole position of blaming it on the lazy bastards that purportedly cause all of this may bring some emotional comfort, but will probably fail to alter the whims of the universe. In any case it fails to make a strong case for the disparity.

The second barrier you mentioned rings quite true actually. John C. mentioned, oh about 1980, the one person/one cpu rule, and it probably would work the same in a family.

But again, I'm not really so much interested in the social barriers causing failure. In the face of that, NVN engineered some success. From what I hear you say:

1. Reasonable pricing.
2. Usable message bases.
3. Customer support.

That doesn't sound very specific to women, or unsought on a wider front. I know one group of knitters originated on a Prodigy mailing list and bailed several years ago when the first e-mail charges shut them down. So economics obviously does play a role. But friendly and cheap doesn't sound like the answer.

What I'm actually hearing I think is that NVN actively went out of their way to allow women to "create their own space" and start and run forums on non-computer topics. Did they actually recruit women to start these forums, or just leave the door open?

So where did they all go? What's INDY.COM?

Jack Rickard

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Dear Jack:

You couldn't have been more right, when you said in your editor's notes in the August 1994 edition that "NETCOM has been so busy adding accounts that their customer service no longer actually exists in reachable form." I happen to be one of those that are on the new accounts. And the service has been absolutely horrible. I signed up with them on July 5, 1994. They got my account setup fast, and charged my credit card fast, but after that there was no more service. The email worked fine, but when I tried to get the newsgroups working, it was complete hell. First, they issued me an incorrect password to setup my newsgroups.

It took them 8 days to tell me what I already knew that they screwed up and gave me a 7 digit password when I really needed 8. Once that hurdle was over they had problems with their hardware where we were not getting all the stuff we were suppose to. Now, I am currently on week number 6 of waiting for my registered domain name, I sent that in for processing on July 8, 1994, and here it is early-mid August and still nothing.

What really just burns my britches and that NO ONE will tell me anything. I have sent 5 emails, called and had to leave messages 4 times, and I have heard zip. It is so frustrating when no one will tell you anything at all. That is such bad customer service that I have been telling others to stay away, at least until they get some breathing bodies to talk to their customers.

As long as you don't have any errors when you sign up, all will be great. But as soon as something goes wrong, watch out...you will be in for a long wait.

Enough of the complaining...Just wanted to get in my normal brown nosing by saying I love the magazine and keep up the great work!

Dave Clark@bakrak.uucp.netcom.com <- see what I mean about the domain name?
Back of the Rack BBS
703-264-0255

◆◆◆

Dave:

The nature of this beast is that there are ALWAYS errors when you sign up with any provider. And the point of my editorial was NOT to beat up on Netcom, they are an example of what is going on, not the cause of it. It appears to be systemic. The future growth I see is threatened if it isn't addressed. And in conversations with not only Netcom, but other providers as well, I'm not seeing the appropriately concerned signs of a thought process here. The latest is a debate over whether their BBS customers are "competition" for their e-mail services. If that's the level of understanding going on here, we'll just have to build around them. And that appears to be what is happening.

Jack Rickard

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Jack Rickard:

In response to your July editorial, "...within the PC industry itself most of the 'success' resulted in companies only superficially different...." from previous standard companies. Probably true. But, the impact of the PC and the microprocessor is having impact in the companies being grown right now in the era of the PC. I know, I am helping grow one right now.

I am a CNC machinist/welder. The machinist I am is quite different from the machinist of ten years ago. The Computer Numerical Controls at the heart of our production use 80286 chips, ancient technology in the PC world. I do believe in years

to come the developments in the PC world will filter to our basic manufacturing and have an enormous impact of our physical lifestyles.

The use of microprocessor controls in no small way changes the form of the company. But, only if the employees want that change. Unfortunately, most people prefer to continue in old predefined ruts. Daily, I hear machinists say how much easier certain tasks would be to perform manually. Only because they refuse to learn new tools. Daily, I prove how much easier manufacturing tasks become IF—these people would learn to use the technology. I heard, to quote, "I don't know how to use that, so we won't do it on the (CNC) machine. Let them do it manually".

These companies may herald a new change; but, it will take 2 generations, read 30 years, before that change comes evident. Do not sound the death toll of the change the PC can make just yet. The dross of humanity is a hard thing to move.

And to answer yet another statement of yours, yes "superproductivity can be applied to manufacturing processes". Our small shop sits in the shadow of Aerojet Propulsion Systems, both physically and economically. Economically only because your tax dollars and mine pay outrageous prices for Titan missiles. Our expanding company constantly hires Aerojet employees who are handed the golden parachute. Superproductivity is here. To quote my (ex-Aerojet employee) supervisor, "We make more (product) chips here in one week than they ever made at Aerojet in one month." [explanation: chips are the metal flakes created from the milling of solid metals into a finished product. This statement reflects our increased productivity of product]. The large Aerojet corporation has Computer Numerical Control equipment as well. But, the company was grown from a manual milling company. We grew during the time of the PC. I could not think of manufacturing without a PC storage system and CAD system.

The future of superproductivity is just beginning. Wait, you may see your starship yet.

73062.307@COMPUSEERVE.COM

♦♦♦

Dear 73062.307;

Perhaps. I think I agree with this, but would enter one cautionary note. The pace of change seems, from my point of view, to be accelerating. Even within the PC industry, we used to complain about the short life cycle of new product as two years. It's more like eight to nine months now. And there are some painful human reallocations that are part of the process. I used to be in the aerospace business as well. My first job was in a room of probably 300 technical writers working with quadrille pads and Pentel .05 mm lead pencils. There are about 15 people there now. The guy who sat next to me now works inventory for a department store at an embarrassingly low wage. Similar dislocations came to radio stations, airlines, retailing, automobiles, and even IBM itself.

So I'm not so sure 30 years is realistic - however comforting. I know it seems slow - I fought the PC battle in aerospace and defense, and I see it going on now in the newspaper business, and cell by cell it will percolate through the entire economy. But it does have some acceleration. And those who don't want to invest the effort to learn the new technologies will wind up being hurt. I listened all day to technical writers and engineers who constantly reminded me how facile their pencil and paper was and how little they needed this new technology. I would note with no joy at all that I'm doing pretty well these days - and they're not.

So if you can inspire a few to pick up the new ways, you may be saving their bacon in the future in a pretty big way. For those you can't, it won't be starships they'll be worrying about.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

Hello Jack,

Firstly, I look forward to each copy of BOARDWATCH. It is a little like watching Monty Python in the late '60s/early '70s. A lot of it is c**p but there enough nuggets to put it head'n'shoulders above other so-called magazines. The on-line community understands the difference.

Although I now live in a rural state (South Dakota) I do understand the internetfatuation which expresses itself volubly and repetitively in the BW offices. We country cousins do not have local internet access. In fact we're lucky to have local BBS access. The discussion of the great and good in Internet serves to whet our appetites if nothing else.

My question really concerns OS/2. I am not (by any means) an apologist for IBM Corporation. I started using it when version 2.0 came out in March 1992 and have been 'doing OS/2' ever since. Since this periodical concerns itself mainly with life on-line, I will not dwell on the smug feelings of total superiority I have when comparing my workstation's capabilities with my DOS-poor colleagues. I can run DOS/Windows/and OS/2 applications with equal ease. My background comms or fax programs barely disturb the cpu cycles of a RAM-hungry Excel or Win/Word....

When I decided that it was time for the burgeoning community of Watertown to 'get' its first BBS [LakeCity BBS - 1:288/19.0 - 605.886.0849] it was natural to turn to OS/2 apps to fill the need. To my amazement, freeware would do the job. No \$800 BBS apps for me! Maximus, BinkleyTerm and Squish filled the void. Soon LakeCity BBS was pounding out the cybermessage to all and sundry on 3 lines. Gigs (but not Gifs) online, messages too. But you know what? I could also use the computer as well. My son could use it to access his ROM encyclopedia, my daughter could play "Grandma and Me". I could do my bills and write letters to my parents in England.

In Boardwatch there has been a real emphasis on getting 64, 128 or even 256 lines out of a single CPU. I believe, however, that

many sysops would be content to get four lines, a couple CDs, some OS/2 and DOS door games and chat AND use the family PC for something else ("something useful" my wife might say). For those sysops, try OS/2! OS2 Shareware in VA. has about 20 lines using a P5/60 with Digiboard. For many situations, OS/2 has the flexibility to do many jobs. Consider it, and at \$0.00 it doesn't cost much to try Max/Bink/Squish.

Tim Burling
Sysop-in-robustness
LakeCity BBS

PS. Do install SIO.SYS, have at least 8 meg and a 386/33. You won't regret it!

♦♦♦

Tim:

We've got a copy of OS/2 up and running here. My experience indicates you paint a bit of a rosy picture. But I agree that there are a lot of applications for small line count, and still single line bulletin boards where it is great to be able to use the machine a bit as well. Dave Hughes Sr. and Jr. were at ONE BBS CON demonstrating the LORA BBS with TCP/IP and it was pretty good stuff. They were piling on seven or eight connections through the same 14.4 kbps SLIP connection, which looked a little bit like packet protocol gang rape to me, but it sort of worked.

The new Warp version notably comes with TCP/IP and I think this is the harbinger of a migration of this Internet technology directly into all operating systems. And if the world works the way I see it, you'll be able to get Internet connections for it in rural South Dakota soon.

But Microsoft and Windows look very strong. There are a lot of aspersions cast on Bill Gates and how Microsoft got to be so dominant, but from my perspective it mostly revolves around the fact that he's one smart SOB, works at it night and day, and produces relatively good software. I agree that OS/2 has some life left in it, but it has to attain relevance pretty soon here if it is to continue. We'll see.

Jack Rickard

♦♦♦

Hi Jack.

I was interested to read in your column about impending netlock. I have a SLIP account with a local provider here in Milwaukee (MIX) that's not only very cheap (\$18 per month for 35 hours) but quite reliable. Although FTP transfers seem to be going a little slower than they used to, I've never had a problem logging on to most sites, although the usual suspects, like the big archive sites, are predictably jammed. I've never had a problem with the Web either, except for the odd Webserver being down, and when I recently moved a domain I "own" from another provider to MIX, InterNIC processed the request in a few days. I'm not saying that the problems you've been having aren't real, but they're not universal either, at least judging from my experience.

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*Steve Klinger,
VP/General Manager
Clark Development Co.*

By Jim Ackerman

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The information superhighway is full of exciting stops; no one has to call your BBS anymore. If they see cryptic text menus, they won't call back. You have to give callers the dazzling graphics and intuitive menus they prefer. That's why you need *Searchlight 4.0*.

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The Remote Imaging Protocol by TeleGrafix gives callers the graphics and mouse support they expect; that's why callers prefer RIP. That's why BBS developers are scrambling to add RIP—and telling everyone that their RIP is "as good as Searchlight."

Well, talk is cheap—and seeing is believing. It's easy to see who the leader in RIP support is...look at our competition and keep asking: *"Where's the RIP?"*

Other companies love to tell you how good their RIP support is. But they hate to show it to you in their ads, brochures and test drives. They won't show you their RIP support because they know they can't match ours. Because nobody can.

The working scroll bars in *Searchlight 4.0* let you scroll through a message, file or directory list with your mouse. You can select messages, tag files, set options and run commands just by clicking with the mouse.

Searchlight 4.0 creates RIP menus on the fly, so you can build custom menus in seconds. And *Searchlight 4.0* is the only BBS program that displays RIP locally—so you see the same screens your callers do.

We do RIP better than anyone because we've been doing it longer than everyone. *Searchlight 3.0* was the world's first RIP-compatible BBS. *Searchlight 3.5* was the first BBS that generated RIP graphics—the first to offer scroll bars, pick lists and "on the fly" menus.

Searchlight 4.0 is the *only* BBS that displays local RIP. It's the *only* way to give callers a true GUI with no proprietary terminal.

And 90 days after TeleGrafix releases the RIP 2.0 protocol, we'll introduce *Searchlight 4.5*—the first BBS program that supports it.

"Searchlight is doing a marvelous job incorporating RIP into their BBS"

Boardwatch Magazine
July, 1994



Our direct video support lets you run any text-based DOS program as a door

you won't believe your GUIs!

Improvise Without Scripts

If you want custom menus, some companies make you buy their script language and write routines in it. That's not customizing—it's programming.

We think our engineers—not our sysops—should write the code. Our menu editor lets you put any command (we have over 100) on any menu. You can nest menus 40 levels deep and add doors to any menu—even build executable menus that run lists of commands.

Then use our RIP styles editor to add buttons and wallpaper—we'll generate your menus on the fly. Or use your favorite RIP painting program to draw RIP screens...and let us put your menus on it.

If you want a custom BBS, we help you build it quickly and easily. When you buy *Searchlight 4.0*, you can leave the compiling to us.

Open Any Door

A hobby BBS might want to add external programs ("doors") so users can play online games. A business might need to let their users drop to DOS and run a custom application.

Some major BBS programs can't drop to DOS at all. Others force you to install a shell utility.

Searchlight 4.0's built-in DOS shell lets you run any text-based program (like FoxPro, dBase, Paradox or applications created with Clipper and Clarion) online. Just set a switch and forget it; we make running spreadsheets online as easy as 1-2-3.

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Unlimited	\$399

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*The automatic menu generation in *Searchlight 4.0* lets you turn any RIP screen into a custom menu*

"Searchlight remains one of the easiest BBS packages to set up and use; it is also one of the least expensive"

PC Magazine
June 14, 1994

No Fine Print

Your callers will love the things that *Searchlight 4.0* can do. You'll like the things *Searchlight* Software won't do.

We don't sell "Digiboard" or "network" versions—support for intelligent multiport cards and LAN software is *free*. We support Internet addresses; just add your favorite utility.

Tech support is *always* free; if you want more lines, we credit *all* your purchase price toward your upgrade.

We even include the freeware version of RIPTerm (TeleGrafix's RIP-compatible terminal), so you can help all your callers "get RIpped."

So get your free, fully functional test drive of *Searchlight 4.0* now...and find out why everyone is saying that we're not like all the other GUIs.

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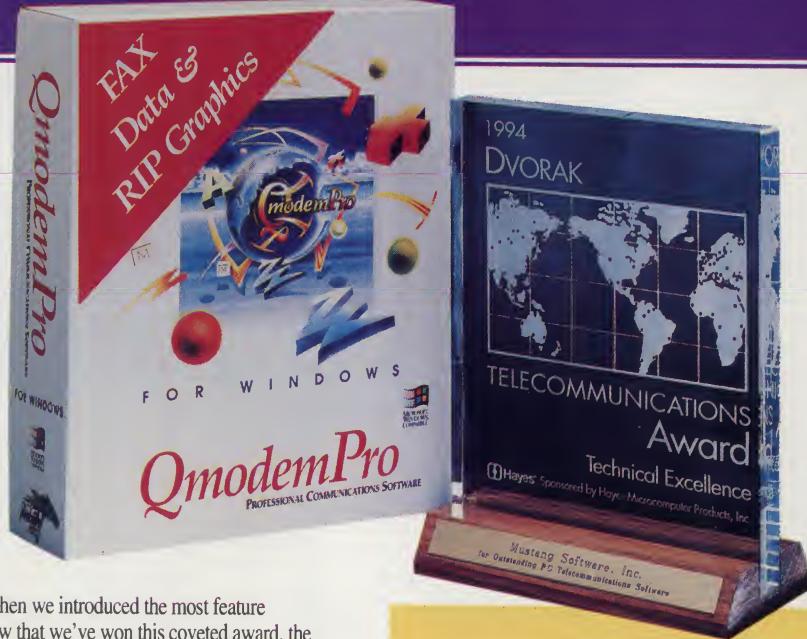
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Ours is also the first Windows product to support RIPscript graphics, so you can plug into the thousands of BBSs offering graphics and full mouse support on-line. And that's *still* not all!

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I enjoy the magazine and do plan on subscribing one of these days. For now it gives me a good excuse to haunt the bookstores.

Robert Levine
robert.levine@mixcom.com

Robert:

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Your letter explains better than most one of the most confounding problems we have here at Boardwatch - a varied perception across the community of what "working" actually means. In every sentence of praise, you note the disclaimer, proviso, and odd failure. You've NEVER had a problem logging onto most sites, except some? You've never had a problem with Web, when it was up? FTP seems a little slower, but that's OK? InterNIC did get around to it after a couple of days.

Then great! It's working and I'm relieved. Of course, there is the corollary question then. What would it look like were it broken?

Jack Rickard

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Jack:

I'm as much a neophyte with your publication as I am almost with Internet, but love 'em both! After spending 8 years and a quarter mil trying to keep a little one man band 24 page magazine on antique boats alive, I have a feeling for your efforts. I wish I had a subject that has your potential market - WOW!

You have a delicious magazine -- love the editorials, and my first reading of the first issue I saw got me so hot under the collar I jumped all over the editor of TIME magazine for not having told me about West Publishing - Warren's column, Oct. 94 issue!

I need some help, please. I need to find someone with a computer on line to Internet who is located in Ozamis City on Mindanao Island in the Phillipines. If you could give me a clue or two as to how to go about finding such a person, I would be ever so grateful. My internet addr is johnddeal @AOL.com, my FAX in 910-815-0430, or you can call me at 800-962-8760. Thank you so much.

Your slap back at Zoom was gorgeously written - a piece I wish I had done!

I am faxing your Oct. 94 article on Noland to the editor of the LA Times. Last January when I was in Raleigh I read about it, and took copies of the N&O home to Palm Springs CA with me. I forwarded them to the LA Times Editor (Roger Smith) asking why the LA Times and Pacific Bell didn't do the same thing for our kids in CA. I'm still after them about it.

Best regards, John G. Deal

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John;

Thanks for the kudos. Niche publishing is an adventure. With regards to your quest in the Phillipines, I would refer you to the letter below.

Jack Rickard

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Hello, Jack:

I noted the message from Cito Maramba in Quezon City, the Philippines, concerning the disputed 64 kbps Internet leased line and the conflict as to who "owns" the .PH Domain. About six months ago, I did a lot of Internet research of the Philippines to attempt to aid a retired minister now in Dumaguete City on Negros Island, to establish an Internet link to his minister son in Ashland, Oregon.

It was not possible to find such an Internet Node in Dumaguete, as that city does not have a stable telephone system. I also was in contact with Dr. John Brule at the University of San Carlos on Luzon. He was very helpful in my research. You might contact him at:

John Brule >INTERNET:
jbrule@cat.syr.edu

Others that were helpful are:

"Richard P. Lozada" >INTERNET:
rpl@sisig.pfi.net

"Engr. Roman Kintanar" >INTERNET:
MANMAN@ceac3b.usc.edu.ph

I would appreciate your saying, "Hello !" to Dr. Brule for me. Thank you!

From what Cito Maramba wrote, I would guess that the .PH domain quarrel is not yet resolved. Unfortunate!

I will look forward to seeing in BOARDWATCH the replies that you receive on this Philippine Islands Internet problem.

Jack, I am enjoying the abundance of Internet Addresses published in your interesting magazine. Controversial, but very much ALIVE !

CHEERS, and Keep It Up, Good Buddy !

Ralph M. Wefel, Central Point, OR.
INTERNET:72754.344@compuserve.com
Central Point, Oregon, USA

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Ralph:

As noted, we have areas of rural South Dakota, and actually a lot of others, here in the United States, where Internet access is unavailable. The problem is immensely magnified in third world countries, many of which as you note have no stable voice telephone system. So I fear the Internet concept may have been a bit oversold at this point. It so happens you CAN reach many areas by Internet or at least by e-mail that are otherwise difficult to communicate with, and so the leap is made that Internet is ubiquitous. It is not. It is not even here in the United States. A tiny minority even of those active online actually have full IP access, and many

of the less glamorous technologies using cheap modems over bad voice lines still have much life left in solving grassroots telecommunications problems. For much of the third world, the cellular, satellite and wireless technologies actually hold the most promise.

Thanks for writing.

Jack Rickard

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Dear Jack,

I have bothered you about a few things in the past (problems with telnetting into your board, e.g) so I thought it only fair that I compliment you as well.

In your August issue, you highlighted a service called Pipeline, run by Uday Iavtury and John Cleick. I called them upon reading your article and I subscribed the next day. This service is going to go along way towards making the Internet a place for people who just happen not to be UNIX gurus. The interface (written by these two) is a joy to use, and GREATLY simplifies the 'net.

If users are using Windoze to get to the 'Net, or are looking for a good GUI for the 'Net, then this service is for them also. This service takes the cryptic UNIX commands (well, okay, if you get a UNIX book...or two...and read a great deal the commands aren't cryptic) and puts them into the hands of the software. You point to what you want, and the program goes and gets/reads/looks at whatever it is.

I want to thank you for (again) bringing online users information that actually helps us pursue our passion, and not waste our time.

I won't be at ONE BBS CON this year, but I will be dying with envy for those of you who will.

Again, thanks for the great mag.

peace,

daryl
DAVISD@PIPELINE.COM

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Daryl:

Pipeline has made some major strides in providing the advantages of UNIX communication capabilities without the pain. They appear to be reaping the rewards of their efforts quite appropriately. Our mission, as always, is to find and communicate the good stuff for people who want to communicate without mortgaging the farm to do so. Where we succeed, I am pleased.

Jack Rickard

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Jack:

I was wondering what you and all the wonderful folks at Boardwatch consider the best and most informative book or other resource on the Internet for new users. I've only been on the Internet for several days

and already am confused. With all the FTP, GOPHERS, MUDs, and other strange words and commands, I am surprised I found out how to E-mail anyone.

Thanks for listening to me.

Scott Blatz
Dayton, OH
ai178@dayton.wright.edu

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Scott:

I like several books for new Internauts. Ed Krol's Whole Earth Internet book, published by O'Reilly, is already in its second edition and is probably one of the top sellers of the genre. Our own Harley Hahn has written The Internet Complete Reference, published by Osborne McGraw/Hill and I think it's one of the more comprehensive books and written very clearly for novices. He has also done an Internet Yellow Pages book that has been well received.

Jack Rickard

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Dear Jack:

I was thoroughly entertained/enlightened by your (August) observations about the net's current overworked status. I agree, it's rather pokey at times (so I do most of my FTP after midnight). But this letter is probably not about the above (on my magazine, Pacific Yachting, I'd turf all of the above and cut to the chase, which follows, but this is your superlative little gem of a magazine and you seem to like filling editorial pages with inexpensive letters, which is okay, it's your format and it works). No, this letter's in response to Allison Bell's rants about GUI and her love of the ascii-based interface.

She sounds a bit like an antique collector who can't stand the fact that somebody actually painted their rusty old iron bed with modern paint or put a decent mattress on it. The net started in ascii, goes the logic, ergo the aficionados of the net work in ascii.

Ascii is like looking at the wiring in your television set. I don't need to know how a TV works to appreciate the images and sounds. I suspect the net will soon look much different from what it looks like today, and it will be GUI that does it, and not a GUI that slows down anybody's machine. The net (and here's where my comments about Bell's comments relate to your earlier comments, so maybe it all does relate somehow in this time//space continuum) is really not growing the way its proponents claim. If it were, all the people in my office would either be wired into it or wanting to be wired in. The reality is much different, hardly anybody even knows it exists, and they're a pretty literate//hip bunch. I'm probably the only person in my office building and in my condo building who is on the net.

The net is really not touching the large numbers some people claim. Growth at the exponential rate of some claims would have put a modem in every home years ago.

GUI...it's the future, and purists like Bell will be content to rummage/tinker with their ascii-based computer screens, while the rest of us address voice-activated icons at a response closer to the response time of our own brains. A GUI icon is nothing more than a mind-blowing macro to take you where you want to go without the unix backslash-colon commands.

Unix drives me crazy. My aging (hey, I'm 46) fingers just can't always type the commands correctly, so you can imagine how thrilled I am when some snyde comment flashes on my screen telling me the Unix server can't recognize my command because I typed a single stroke wrong in a 25-stroke command sequence (a typo that even Forest Gump, by the way, would recognize immediately and execute). I find the recent plethora of courses and seminars on using the net interesting. Think about it. They offer to teach something complex to people who have never announced to the world that they want more complexity in their lives. Talk about a hard sell. Few people want to know how their TV works. Whenever I visit a fellow netter at home or office and watch him/her operate on our local Unix-based BBS, I see a high degree of frustration. When we succeed in making something work, the satisfactions are so great because the pain was so intense getting there.

Hey, so much for my rants...I enjoy your magazine.

Regards

John Shinnick
Editor
Pacific Yachting Magazine
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

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John:

Let me guess - Macintosh guy?

Actually I agree with you pretty much across the board. The most amazing thing about the online community is that with 15-17 million of us doing it, it essentially leaves no trail. The world of those who are NOT on the network is virtually untouched by it. There are no detectable traces. They don't even know it's happening. And the barriers to bridging from NOT using it to using it are just preposterous. Modem initialization strings? Unix commands? File transfer protocols? It just shouldn't be. And I agree completely that things have been a little "oversold" here of late, complete to the number of people actually on the net.

But there are Luddites in every seam of every zone. The ascii purists are just another level. There are the DOS purists (Windoze), PC purists, MAC purists, and so forth in an amazing variety of levels. It almost becomes a religious discussion. So my point of view is let everyone have the piece of it they want. There is actually a case to be made for very quick hits and minimalist ascii menus. Similarly, video clips via Mosaic are quite entertaining. Pick your poison and let everyone else do so as well.

And yes, you found me out. We're going to get our readership to write their own magazine, so I can go play four-wheeler in the mountains. We're still a few issues away from that, but getting there.

Jack Rickard

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Jack:

Hi, I've read several of your articles and really like your writing. It's honest, funny and informative. I also think you have the soul of an entrepreneur given what you originally went through to connect to the Internet (ie you said what the heck and just bulldozed your way through it).

Anyway, someone told me that in the August issue of Boardwatch you talk about some NLM's for serving gopher www etc. Can you point me to the folks who wrote this? How easy is it to set up and does it also provide the actual internet connection? or does it assume that a TCP/IP connection already exists?

Thanks for your help!

Throop Wilder
Wilder Systems, Inc./Trik, Inc.
400 W. Cummings Park, Suite 2350
Woburn, MA 01801
throop@wilder.com
<http://www.wilder.com/wing.html>

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Throop:

I believe I was referring to Brad Clement's Netware Loadable Modules. He has a little company in Potsdam New York titled Murkworks. I think they've got an advertisement with full contact info here in the pages of Boardwatch somewhere.

What I went through to get on the net is approximately what I go through to do anything from mailing magazines to page layout to hiring people to writing software. You can bull your way through it, or wait for someone to call for an appointment to come in and sell it to you. The difference is about three years in availability, and I'm not a patient sort of guy.

Jack Rickard

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It all started when I went to a local bookstore to find a nice, juicy Internet guide. That's the first mistake I made. There were quite a few and many of them had nice, bright, colorful covers. I'm a sucker for gee-whiz covers. SO, I bought one called ACCESS THE INTERNET! by David Paul. At least partly because it said "FREE SOFTWARE-a \$150 VALUE" across the bottom. I'm a sucker for free software, too. The rest of the blurbs on the cover told how this book contained everything I would ever need in my quest to find a comfortable interface to the net. Ack. ONLY after shelling out \$19.95 plus tax did I find out that the software is a graphical front end for your personal nemesis NETCOM and is totally dedicated to

that provider. You can't use it for anything else!

What burns my butt is that Sybex, who usually publishes quality books, went along with this 'grab it and run' scheme. Needless to say, I won't be caught by any more such, because I won't buy a Sybex book again. Now, if I only had their e-mail address, I'd send them a carbon copy of this letter... sigh B-{:.

Jeff Partridge
Poorer but wiser...

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Jeff:

I too am very disturbed by the current trend to include teaser software or crippled software with books, mainly because they just blatantly lie about it on the cover of the books. And I'm seeing even quality publishers fall into this scheme. It should stop immediately. Maybe we'll start some sort of fraudulent book list to warn our readers.

That said, Netcom isn't precisely my nemesis. Actually we've worked with them on experimental 28.8 kbps SLIP accounts, and a number of other things. They have a very attractive pricing structure, and are available in a number of cities. They're a little overwhelmed by demand right now, and exhibit some illustrative problems all Internet Service Providers are facing right now. But they actually offer one of the best price deals for Internet access in the country, and you can't expect me to decry ANY effort to mask the execrable UNIX command line with a software interface that works. I would like to see MORE of this actually, and books are a good way to do this. At this moment, if you telnet boardwatch.com, you are going through Netcom, while boardwatch.littleton.co.us takes you through Rocky Mountain Network.

Spry Communications has come out with a package called Internet In a Box at about \$149 that is the most complete thing I've seen. It's virtually unavailable in some cities right now as the demand for this package has been incredible. The Internet gig has been an absolute gold mine for publishers, which is why you see so many books, and it is sometimes difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff. We've been trying to point out the gems as they come up through book reviews - not generally our most exciting material but occasionally important. But it certainly isn't worth listing all the BAD stuff out there as there is an incredible amount of it.

Jack Rickard

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Heya Jack:

First off, I'd like to tell you how much I really enjoy your magazine. I find it very informative and useful in my field of business.

Well, let's get to the point...I'm writing in response to the Dvorak Online column in the August 1994 issue of Boardwatch. At the risk of sounding like a geek spouting flame to protect his "baby", I'd like to say that I don't

think it has any business being run in Boardwatch.

I think I'll start with some info about myself before I claw into the article, to back me up a little, so to say. First, I own and operate a small (getting larger) computer software company out of Michigan. I am an avid programmer, and am fluent in C, C++, and Pascal. I spend most of my online time the last few years on the Internet, although I started out on BBS's. In fact, from 1989-1992 I ran a small T.A.G system devoted primarily to message forums, which went rather well until I had no free time to devote to it.

I do all this between attending high school, and maintaining a social life. Yes, that's right, *gasp* high school. I'm actually fifteen years old, not that it matters. Okay, now to the meat of the message. =)

After re-reading the August Dvorak Online column several times to assure myself I wasn't dreaming and/or hallucinating, I've come to the conclusion that the entire column consists of one-sided stereotypes laid down by someone desperately trying to cling on to the Bulletin Board era.

Quoting from a paragraph in the column, Dvorak writes, "This is because the fresh hobbyist blood is heading to the Net and without the control and perspective of the old-timers, these kids will go nuts." Quite frankly, I think that paragraph, in fact the entire column, is just a tad short on "perspective" itself. It paints nothing but un-truths about the people on the Internet and the relations going on between them.

The Internet *IS* the future of communications, there's no way to get around it. BBS's attached to phone lines running 14.4k modems just aren't economical given our present telecommunications system. Why not? One word. Connectivity. Users aren't satisfied with the 8 line chat system anymore, because it's limited to the particular long distance exchange the BBS happens to be in. They want to talk, just like always, but now more than ever they want to talk to *EVERYONE*.

The original answer for the BBS community was Fidonet. The next step is a UUCP link for usenet, etc. And from there, Internet. There's really no way to get around it short of convincing the long distance couriers to give us free long distance (...Don't we wish =>

I won't waste too much more of your time, but I do want to quote one more line from the column. Dvorak writes, "We're talking about every screwball geek, loose cannon, and bug-eyed nerd in the world here — all joining forces." In response... Well, yes, I spend a lot of the time on the Internet. However, for your info, I have 20/20 natural vision, am 5'6, weigh 145lbs, and play on my high school basketball team. Guess I'm just the exception to the rule then, eh?

Just thought I'd take a little time to voice my opinion of the column. Feel free to cut/paste/rip apart/otherwise mutilate this

message. And, keep up the good work...It's an otherwise wonderful magazine.

Joe
arawyn@spiff.gnu.ai.mit.edu

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Joe:

Nah, I wouldn't touch it. We've got surreal levels of stuff going on here. John C. has been raising the ire of readers long before there was a Boardwatch, and the trail is littered with the drying carcasses of those who knew better. I'm feeling pretty cocky that we have him in Boardwatch to rattle the cage of any of our readership that didn't get a flame on from my own prattlings. Between

the two of us, we ought to get a rise from everybody one way or another.

Besides, I was fifteen once myself. You'll get over it. It's not actually fatal in most cases.

Jack Rickard

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Dear Jack,

I am about to set up a BBS (Roboboard/FX 2 line running under OS/2) and I am really confused about one thing: What does it take to provide Telnet and FTP services to my users? Can I do it with my computer, or do I need to buy a separate computer running Unix? I know that IBM has a TCP/IP package available for OS/2, but what else do I need to get this sort of thing off the ground? I've heard so many conflicting things on this that I'm really confused, so I'd appreciate it if you could point me in the right direction.

Thanks,

Ariel Benzakein
SysOp, Cincinnati Online
ariel@virtue.win.net

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Ariel:

You're confused because it is confusing. The "how do I connect my BBS to the Internet so my callers will drop the threats about burning my house down" gig is pretty much the frontier these days. OS/2 does have some built-in TCP/IP capabilities, but I don't know what Seth Hamilton has done about taking advantage of it in RoboBoard. Dave Hughes, (daveh@oldcolo.com) has done some interesting things with OS/2, a BBS package titled LORA from Italy, and some other utility that allows telnet in and out. You might talk to him if you are into the OS/2 route.

For now, the solutions tend to be partial, and very dependent on the basic route you go with your BBS software. But over the next year, I think we'll see some amazing strides in connecting bulletin boards to the Internet, and ultimately I think the majority of Internauts will get there via BBSs.

Jack Rickard

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Jack,

My compliments and raves about ONE BBS CON '94!

I was only able to attend the vendor floor last year for one day on Saturday. I was a pretty new sysop then, having just brought up my board on some shareware software at the beginning of July. I couldn't believe what I saw there! I was completely amazed!

I've since switched to Wildcat! BBS software and have a little more than a year under my belt, running a 2-line system with over 800 conferences and Internet E-Mail and newsgroups.

I've just returned from ONE BBS CON 94! and I'm still amazed! Congratulations for an outstanding show! The organization was remarkable, the seminars informative and the company great!

Looking forward to next year!

Tom Fota
tom.fota@sprtclub.com
The Sports Club BBS
Pasadena, CA
818-792-4752

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Tom:

Glad you could join us if only for a little while. We're scheduled for another try to get it right next August 16-20 in Tampa Florida. The ONE BBS CON has grown into quite a thing I guess - about 4000 in Atlanta as you saw this past August. But more than numbers, it was the right 4000. These people are very excited about something, and since I'm excited about the same thing, it's kind of a party for me. Sounds like you've caught the fever as well.

Jack Rickard

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Dear Jack,

I have noted in the Letters to the Editor column that when people ask for how to get internet access, you tend to refer people to places which charge hourly fees. There are local providers which will provide full internet access through a UNIX shell for much cheaper (My provider, Cybergate, charges me 17.50 a month, unlimited usage. Another local provider is Satelnet. ((Cybergate covers most of south and central Florida))). Now for some people an hourly fee may be acceptable, and even preferred, but for those of us who like IRC and Mu*, hourly fees can mount up very fast.

Alan Goldstein
mystro@gate.net

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Alan:

Actually, I don't like hourly fees either - never have. I don't tend to refer people much at all as the landscape of who's providing what at what price changes faster than we publish. I think Netcom can match your \$17.50 flat rate and is available in more

cities. And as more bulletin boards provide Internet access, I think the rates will drop further.

Jack Rickard

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Dear Jack

I am not writing to take issue with any of your provocative views, but to provide you with a new metaphor which you use so effectively in characterizing the electronic medium. I just finished reading your most recent edition in which you characterize the medium to be like restaurants instead of television stations or car manufacturers. I hope so since I am heavily investing family resources into my BBS, Julie's Dad. Julie is my three and half year old daughter and every night she sits on my lap as I do my Sysop duties. She likes to tap the keys when a user is in chat and I provide the translation. I can see that she knows the difference between educational computer games and the BBS. To her the BBS is a tea party. You have fun servicing your guests something pretty but unreal while learning how to interact.

John Walker
John.Walker@BusiLink.com
Julie's Dad (215)542-1511

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Dear John;

Sounds like Julie, and her dad, are pretty lucky to have each other. I like the tea party metaphor.

Jack Rickard

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Jack -

Ok... well... instead of taking up a space of "I love BW" I'll just skip that part... I am here to write/ask some comments/questions.

First, I am sick of all the people that write you who COMPLAIN. If yer gonna complain, DON'T write... sheesh... also, I am constantly hearing "I am the only BBS in my area, and I provide everything" ... where I live, there are 100+ BBS'es, and it SUCKS! It would be GREAT to be the ONLY one... hehehe... also, I would like to say: I am sick of people saying "this BBS software sucks... this BBS software is the best" ... it DOESN'T matter what software ya run man... its HOW ya run it... whether its WildCat!, ReneGade, Oblivian/2, or ViSiON-X, its what YOU do with it... well, that's it... thanks Jack...

Paul(ers) Hughes(ers)

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Paul:

No, we have space. Let's go back to the first part again. Seriously, people have different ways of expressing themselves. Some come across as complaints, others as roses. Occasionally they point out anomalies in this technological community that can and should be fixed. Well worth the space in my

view. Most of the "complaints" we receive are primarily of two forms:

1. I didn't get my Boardwatch.
2. You're not writing enough about ME.

Both are quite flattering when you think about it, however elegantly or inelegantly expressed. A bit of a bond is formed among BBS operators running the same software, or using the same hardware platform, and each would welcome a publication devoted solely to their particular genre. They probably each deserve it as well. We just can't cover it all such that each and every issue of Boardwatch is entirely devoted to everything. So we try to see complaints for what they are, and go on.

Jack Rickard

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Hey Jack!

First of all I have to say ONE BBS CON was far beyond my expectations, I can't wait for Tampa 95! It was so well organized, so informative, entertaining I couldn't believe it. It shows that is was an all year work for you and your staff. I was going to tell you the very first day at the CON since I had you a meter away, but I'm shy and my spoken english is bad bad :).

What I need from you, and this is very important for me, is that you tell me where can I get those lasers! I need them, I gonna be the special effects guy for my class Talent Show in 95' and I want those lasers badly. HOpe they can be leased cheaply!

THanks a lot, next CON I promise I will go where you are and kiss your...hands or something :).

Carlos Rodriguez
Matrix of PR

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Carlos:

I hope by the second day, you were over the shy part. We do put a bit of effort into presentations, sessions, and so forth organizationally, but they are really the excuse to be there. Most of the action is in the halls with people meeting people and swapping stories - some alleged to be true.

The lasers don't come cheap. This was basically an av/multimedia company that brought in a team of technicians, rehearsed most of the night before, and were justifiably proud of the result. The laser show was essentially the equivalent of what used to be found only in planetariums. I think we even had to get a permit to HAVE it as it uses some pretty high powered laser equipment. Phil Becker orchestrated it all - you can reach him at phil.becker@esoft.com.

Jack Rickard

◆◆◆

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VOICE/VIEW - THE WAVE OF THINGS TO COME

by Brian Gallagher

Radish Communications Systems Inc., is a small and growing company headquartered in Boulder, Colorado that is making big waves on the information ocean with its voice/view protocol, adding yet another twist to the possibilities afforded by a serious information explosion. Voice/View essentially acts as a switch operating on a single telephone line between audio, (voice), and video (view). Connected to your PC via a voice/view modem, your telephone handset works with your keyboard to transfer data and voice communications over a single telephone line.

There is no communications software other than the voice/view protocol needed. By muting the audio signal when data is transferring, and re-establishing it when the transfer is complete, (two or three seconds), the protocol promises to open up a new era in PC communications. The innovation is such a little piece of such a big puzzle that it would be easy enough to overlook, but there is something more to it. Already, Hayes, ZyXEL and U.S.



The protocol was on display at COMDEX this past November and you can look for it to be weaving its way throughout the online industry, opening up new avenues as applications become apparent. Imagine a voice mail system where you were no longer forced to wait for the tedious procession of options to be presented to you vocally, rather a list of them pops on your screen seconds after you make a connection.

The travel, banking and mutual fund industries are already taking advantage of what voice/view has to offer with bit map representations of signatures transmitted while you speak for check and signature verification. Perhaps the biggest area for possible applications lies in technical support. Picture calling into your favorite software company with a problem. The tech on the other end of the line thinks it may be your config.sys file, and they send a message to your computer screen asking for

this file. By clicking on the "yes" box the file is transmitted instantly to the tech, without ever having to describe it, or even locate it.

The tech finds the problem and sends the file back to you. While still maintaining a voice link, you copy the file over your existing config.sys and reboot your machine. You don't lose the connection because the initial contact was made with your handset. After rebooting your machine you thank the tech and marvel at just how far we have really come. This kind of a protocol will shave hours off of tech support calls, and dramatically improve the service to the end user.

There will be hundreds, perhaps thousands of areas where we will see voice/view creeping into use and once it is there we will wonder how we ever got along without it.

Radish Communications Systems, Inc., 5744 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 20220, Boulder, CO 80308-3220; (303)443-2237 voice; (303)443-1659 fax. ♦

OLD TIME RADIO MAILING LIST

You don't hear much about these days, but radio used to provide a very different form of entertainment than talk shows and golden oldies. Before television, radio drama was very popular. And apparently some enthusiasts still survive to live for William Conrad and Gunsmoke before you could see any smoke. And Fireside Theater is either something you know about or you don't. It may be genetic.

OTR (Old Time Radio) is a noncommercial electronic newsletter for people who enjoy collecting and listening to

nostalgic radio programs. Some anticipated topics to this electronic newsletter include a list of AM radio stations broadcasting OTR, lists and critiques of OTR tape vendors, offers to privately exchange recordings, critiques and reviews of individual programs, and hints on rerecording and preserving audio quality. To subscribe to the newsletter by e-mail, send a message to OTR-REQUEST@AIRWAVES.CHI.IUS with subject SUBSCRIBE. You'll receive a welcome message with more information. OTR is sponsored by the Airwaves Radio Journal and Lou Genco. ♦

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Cheetah also performs phase and proximity searches. Users can specify word proximity within a paragraph or sentence and the file viewer conveniently highlights all found text.

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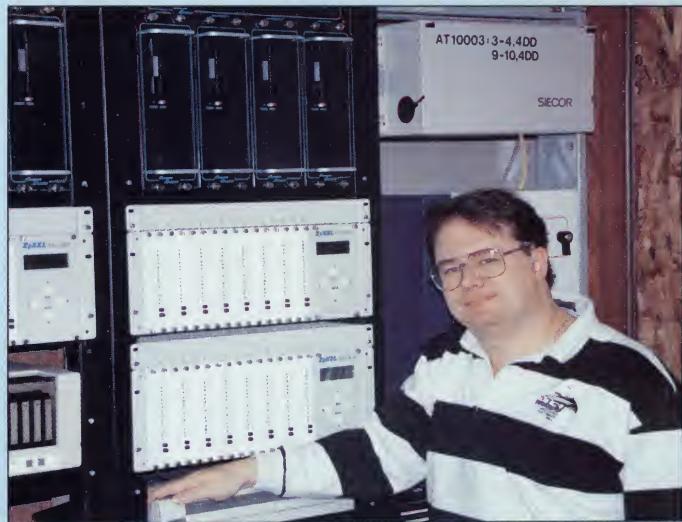
Cheetah is available in both serial port and Digiboard versions and works out of the box on Novell networks. Cheetah comes with an unlimited user license per BBS.

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So if you work for a corporation, association or government and run a BBS, or just have the task of building one, call APDI at 1-800-785-APDI and find out more about Cheetah's ability to give your users what they need.



Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS Service Bureau

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CA'S "SMART TRAVELER" OFFERS REALTIME FREEWAY TRAFFIC MAP BY MODEM

by Nick Anis

The California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) has introduced another stage of the Smart Traveler project which began in November 1992 that gives anyone with a PC and a modem access to a realtime freeway traffic map of the entire LA Metropolitan area, seven days a week, 24-hours-a-day.

In 40 seconds at 2400 baud the current traffic sensor datapoints for the region are transferred, and the results are then graphically displayed on a freeway map on the caller's PC screen.

Current traffic conditions and personalized travel choices are also available from 78 Smart Traveler kiosks placed in major office buildings, shopping malls, and transportation centers in Los Angeles and Ventura counties for non-PC users and people on the go. The kiosks have touchscreens, an audible narrator, and are bilingual (English and Spanish). They also feature current information on over 1,000 bus and train routes and access to over 600,000 car-pool ride-matching prospects. At the user's option, they even provide printouts.

A list of kiosk locations can be obtained by calling 800-COMMUTE and pressing "1" or "3" to reach an operator who will provide the location of the nearest kiosk and/or other information.

The traffic information consists of a freeway traffic map that is a real-time "snapshot" of current Southern California freeway traffic conditions. When a user requests the map, the kiosks or PC software automatically dials the CALTRANS host computer at an LA traffic management center, where it retrieves real-time traffic conditions from thousands of traffic sensors throughout the region. The result? Hundreds of dots on a map that trace the routes, in both directions, of each freeway. The dots are color coded for speed: green for 35 mph (miles per hour) or better; yellow for 20-35 mph; red for less than 20 mph, and purple for possible incidents.

The CALTRANS District 7 traffic detection network links the host computer by hardwire and radio transmission to 35,000 pavement loops which are polled every 30 seconds by 1,422 local traffic detector locations. Each center can handle up to 28 loops. One loop is required for each lane of traffic on a roadway, in each direction. In Los Angeles, that's typically eight to 10 lanes/loops. Some loops also cover on- and off-ramps, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes for carpools and buses, and auxiliary lanes for moving into and out of traffic.

CALTRANS started the sensor project about 20 years ago, with a 42 mile triangular loop of sensors. Over the years CALTRANS has augmented its spot locations. Some routes have loops every half mile now, while others may skip several miles at a time.

According to CALTRANS spokesperson Pat Perovich the agency has now covered 350 of the 550 centerline freeway miles in the monitored areas of the district. There will be even more coverage soon, as the district infills and upgrades the sensor system.

For this report, we viewed the map produced by the Caltrans software on a PC screen. All the common Los Angeles traffic problem areas were covered, including most major interchanges, such as the 10/405, the 110/101 (the notorious downtown four-level interchange), and the 10/60/101 (also known as the East LA Interchange). The few areas that did not have sensor coverage were routes 210 West of 605, 57 North of 60, 2 North of 5, and 110 North of 5.

Version 1 of the PC-DOS-based access software is currently available. Version 2, which is a little behind schedule, should be available in three to four months. CALTRANS says it will have all the other functions of the kiosks, such as rideshare information and registrations, and bus and train schedules available too. To actually register for rideshare, however, a user will still have to call an 800 number and speak to a live operator.

The program fits on a single disk and is available at no charge for anyone who wants it. The software prompts the user for their modem's serial port, area code, and dialing prefix (if required), and configures the software with the appropriate dial-up phone number and other settings.

The Smart Traveler project was funded with a several million dollar grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHA). Part of the project involved contacting employers in the Los Angeles County area to let them know the information was available, a process which is ongoing.

CALTRANS District 7, which includes Ventura and Los Angeles County, has plans to exchange traffic sensor data with District 12 — Orange County, and District 11 — San Diego. Eventually District 8 — San Bernardino/Riverside County, and the other 8 districts will also exchange traffic sensor data.

Other private groups are also using the data, which they access through leased line data feeds that CALTRANS also offers. Maxwell Laboratories, Inc. in San Diego, has a leased line to CALTRANS in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Orange County. The firm takes in the data and publishes real-time traffic maps for San Diego, Orange County, and the Los Angeles Area, as a service. A FREE service.

The information is available on the Internet, on the firm's World Wide Webb Server, accessible using NASA's MOSAIC interface. Maxwell's traffic maps are displayed as GIF images. Their software doesn't support a zoom function like the CALTRANS' PC-version, but it is higher resolution, and it provides additional information about the colored map dots when a user clicks on them. It also covers all of Southern California, instead of just the Los Angeles metro area.

To get a detailed set of instructions about Maxwell Laboratories World Wide Webb Server's traffic maps, send electronic-mail (e-mail) to traffic-info@scubed.com; their server will e-mail all the information back. For Mosaic, Cello, or EINet Win or MacWeb

Southern California Real-time Traffic Report

 Maxwell Laboratories, Inc.

and

 Caltrans
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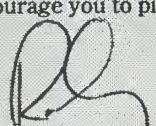
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users, the World Wide Universal Resource Locator (URL) is:
<http://www.scubed.com:8001/>

For San Diego type:
telnet www.scubed.com:8001
GET /caltrans/sd/text_summary.html

and

telnet www.scubed.com:8001
GET /caltrans/ad/text_trouble.html

The first two lines return a text listing of the freeway speeds sorted by freeway and the second two lines return a listing sorted by slowest to highest speeds.

Also,

telnet www.scubed.com:8001
GET /caltrans/sd/text_closures.html

and

telnet www.scubed.com:8001
GET /caltrans/sd/text_incidents.html

and

telnet www.scubed.com:8001
GET /caltrans/text_status.html

return text listings of planned construction closures and the CHP/CALTRANS incident log, and new features of the traffic server, respectively.

Information on the World Wide Web and NSCA Mosaic software can be obtained from the anonymous ftp site: <ftp://ncsa.uiuc.edu>.

For Los Angeles and Orange County, use the same syntax, but substitute "la" or "oc" for "sd" in each line.

The "snail mail" (US Postal Service) address for CALTRANS is: Department of Transportation, CALTRANS District 7, 120 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Maxwell Labs, S-Cubed Division, Test Technology Group's address is: 3398 Carmel Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92038-1095.

[Press Contact: Pat Perovich, Office Chief, IVHS development, Tel: 213-897-0334, Fax: 213-897-3639, Margaret Moilov, Transportation Planner, 213-897-0188, Hector Obeso, Senior Transportation Engineer, 213-897-7053, all of CALTRANS, Steve Fox, Project Manager, Tel: 213-897-4108, Fax: 213-897-3803, E-mail: 75033.1775@compuserve.com, William J. Proffer, Maxwell Laboratories, S-CUBED, Tel: 619-453-0060, Fax: 619-755-0474, E-mail: proffer@scubed.com.]◆

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'94 IG NOBEL PRIZES PRESENTED AT MIT

The winners of this year's Ig Nobel Prizes were honored, in a fashion, by four Nobel Laureates, 1200 hecklers, the Norwegian Consul, and a convicted felon at a tumultuous ceremony at MIT. The Prizes honor individuals whose achievements "cannot or should not be reproduced." The ceremony is sponsored by "The Annals of Improbable Research" (which has been described as "The MAD Magazine of science") and the MIT Museum.

This was the fourth annual ceremony. Past winners include Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates, who won the 1992 Ig Nobel Peace Prize for "his uniquely compelling methods of bringing people together."

The festivities included speeches by three of the new winners — Dr. Brian Sweeney (Biology), Dr. Robert Lopez (Entomology) and, via tape recording, Dr. Richard Dart (Medicine). Sweeney and Lopez had their Prizes — cheap gold-painted wax half-brains — personally handed to them by the Nobel Laureates.

The Nobel Laureates — Richard Roberts (Physiology or Medicine, 1993), Dudley Herschbach (Chemistry, 1986), William Lipscomb (Chemistry, 1976), and Sheldon Glashow (Physics, 1979) — also each presented a 30-second "Heisenberg Certainty Lecture." Those laureates who exceeded the time limit were thrown off the stage by a referee. The Laureates also joined with a five-woman dance group to perform a brief ballet number, "The Interpretive Dance of the Electrons," with music from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite." Five additional Nobel Laureates participated in the Ceremony with congratulatory tapes and slides.

Following is a list of the new Ig Nobellians:

BIOLOGY W. Brian Sweeney, Brian Kraft-Jacobs, Jeffrey W. Britton, and Wayne Hansen, for their breakthrough study, "The Constipated Serviceman: Prevalence Among Deployed US Troops," and especially for their numerical analysis of bowel movement frequency. [The study was published in "Military Medicine," vol. 158, August, 1993, pages 346-348.]

PEACE John Hagelin of Maharishi University and The Institute of Science, Technology and Public Policy, promulgator of peaceful thoughts, for his experimental conclusion that 4,000 trained meditators caused an 18 percent decrease in violent crime in Washington, D.C. [Details were published in "Interim Report: Results of the National Demonstration Project To Reduce Violent Crime and Improve Governmental Effectiveness In Washington, D.C., June 7 to July 30, 1993," Institute of Science, Technology and Public Policy, Fairfield, Iowa.]

MEDICINE This prize is awarded in two parts. First, to Patient X, formerly of the US Marine Corps, valiant victim of a venomous bite from his pet rattlesnake, for his determined use of electroshock therapy — at his own insistence, automobile sparkplug wires were attached to his lip, and the car engine revved to 3000 rpm for five minutes.

Second, to Dr. Richard C. Dart of the Rocky Mountain Poison Center and Dr. Richard A. Gustafson of The University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, for their well-grounded medical report: "Failure of Electric Shock Treatment for Rattlesnake Envenomation." [The report was published in

"Annals of Emergency Medicine," vol. 20, no. 6, June 1991, pp. 659-661.]

ENTOMOLOGY Robert A. Lopez of Westport, NY, valiant veterinarian and friend of all creatures great and small, for his series of experiments in obtaining ear mites from cats, inserting them into his own ear, and carefully observing and analyzing the results. [Dr. Lopez's report was published in "The Journal of the American Veterinary Society," vol. 203, no. 5, Sept. 1, 1993, pp. 606-607.]

PSYCHOLOGY Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore, practitioner of the psychology of negative reinforcement, for his 30-year study of the effects of punishing three million citizens of Singapore whenever they spat, chewed gum, or fed pigeons.

PHYSICS The Japanese Meteorological Agency, for its seven-year study of whether earthquakes are caused by catfish wiggling their tails.

LITERATURE

L. Ron Hubbard, ardent author of science fiction and founding father of Scientology, for his crackling Good Book, "Dianetics," which is highly profitable to man-kind or to a portion thereof.

CHEMISTRY Texas State Senator Bob Glasgow, wise writer of logical legislation, for sponsoring the 1989 drug control law which makes it illegal to purchase beakers, flasks, test tubes, or other laboratory glassware without a permit.

ECONOMICS Jan Pablo Davila of Chile, tireless trader of financial futures and former employee of the state-owned



Ig Nobel Laureate does "The Interpretive Dance of the Electrons," at MIT awards



Thank you sir, may I have another

Codelco Company, for instructing his computer to "buy" when he meant "sell," and subsequently attempting to recoup his losses by making increasingly unprofitable trades that ultimately lost 0.5 percent of Chile's gross national product. Davila's relentless achievement inspired his countrymen to coin a new verb: "to davilar," meaning, "to botch things up royally."

MATHEMATICIANS The Southern Baptist Church of Alabama, mathematical measurers of morality, for their county-by-county estimate of how many Alabama citizens will go to Hell if they don't repent.

FOR MORE INFO about the Ig Nobel Prizes and/or The Annals of Improbable Research: Kathleen Thurston-Lighty, The MIT Museum, (617)-253-4422 (ktl@mit.edu); Marc Abrahams, The Annals of Improbable Research (AIR), published by The MIT Museum, (617)-253-8329 (marca@mit.edu). To subscribe to the mini-Annals of Improbable Research, send a brief E-mail message to either of these addresses: LIST SERV@MITVMA.MIT.EDU or LISTSERV@ MITVMA. The body of your message should contain ONLY the words "SUBSCRIBE MINI-AIR" followed by your name. Here are two examples: SUBSCRIBE MINI-AIR Irene Curie Joliot SUBSCRIBE MINI-AIR Nicholai Lobachevsky ♦

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ON THE FUTURE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Prepared Remarks by Vice President Al Gore to the Center for Communication, New York, NY, October 17, 1994

Good morning. About 120 years ago two Colorado mayors had a big decision to make. One was the Mayor of Aspen. The other: the Mayor of Ashcroft.

The railroads were expanding through the West. The Union Pacific had to decide where to route its tracks through Colorado. Should they go through Ashcroft? Or should they go through that smaller town about twenty miles away?

As the story goes, the Mayor of Aspen saw the future. He sold the Union Pacific on the virtues of his town. And that's why today, when you think of ski resorts, dinner theaters, buying jeans at Boogie's and vacation homes for Barbra Streisand, you think of Aspen.

Ashcroft? Literally off the beaten track; it's a ghost town.

The President has often said that the choice we face as a nation is whether to embrace the opportunity for change or try to hold it at arms' length, hoping we last long enough to survive.

That's not much of a choice. And the President's decision has been clear.

When the President fought successfully — without a single Republican vote — for a real program of budget deficit reduction, it was because he understood that the challenges we face require enormous change — and concrete action. Action that has brought lower unemployment, low inflation, solid growth and more jobs.

When the President fought successfully, against strong political opposition, for NAFTA, it was because he understood that our only hope in the marketplace of global competition is to compete, not retreat. And that's what we are doing.

When Congress returns before the end of the year to approve the GATT agreement, it will follow the course that President



Vice President Al Gore

Clinton has set out — to base our future on the simple belief that American companies can be the most competitive and American workers the very best in the world — and that we must master change if we are to be the masters of our fate.

Are we prepared to take advantage of the coming information revolution?

In today's — and tomorrow's — marketplace, no information company will be able to stand intransigently in the path of change. To be rooted in one spot will be, inevitably, to become rooted in the past.

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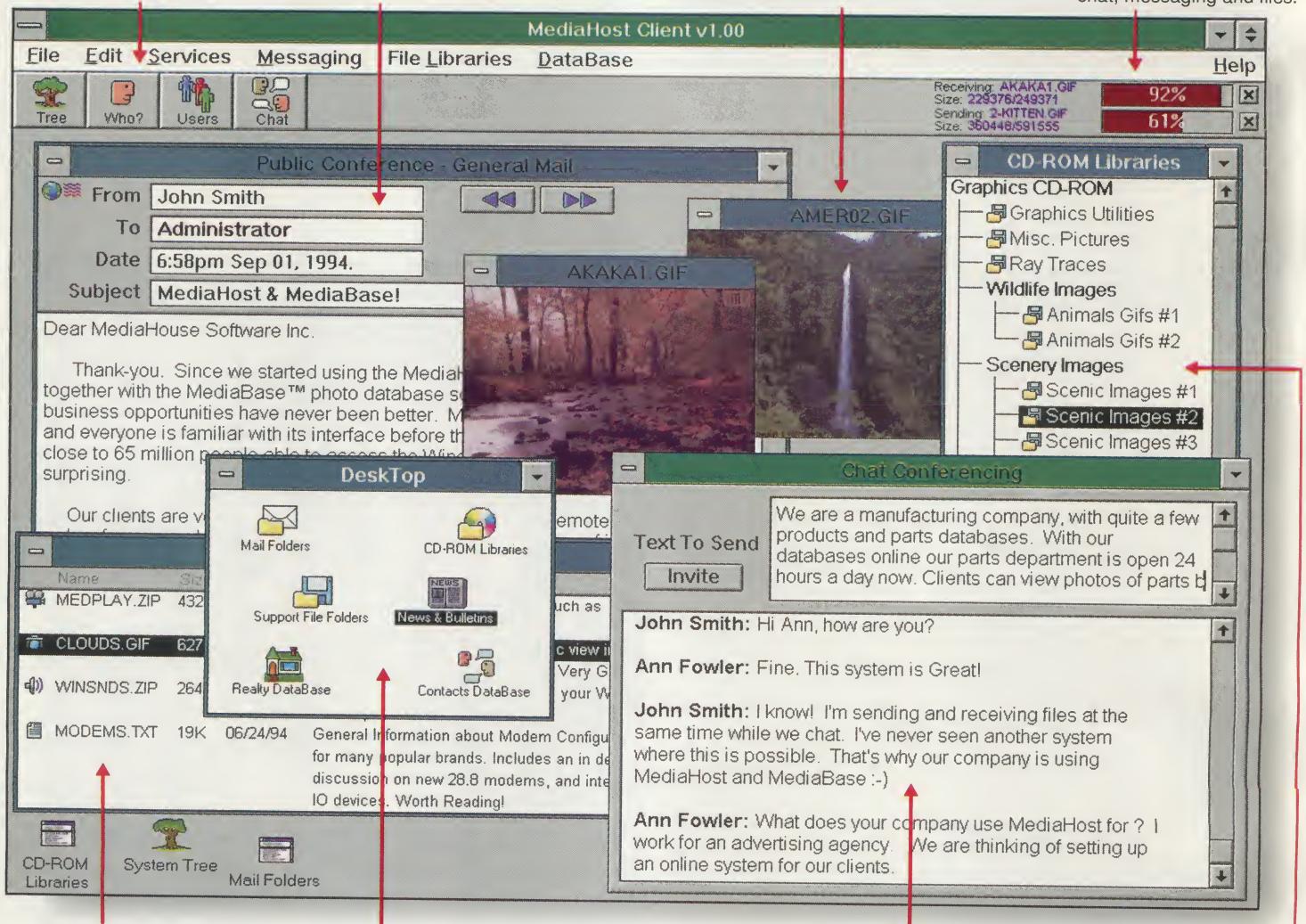
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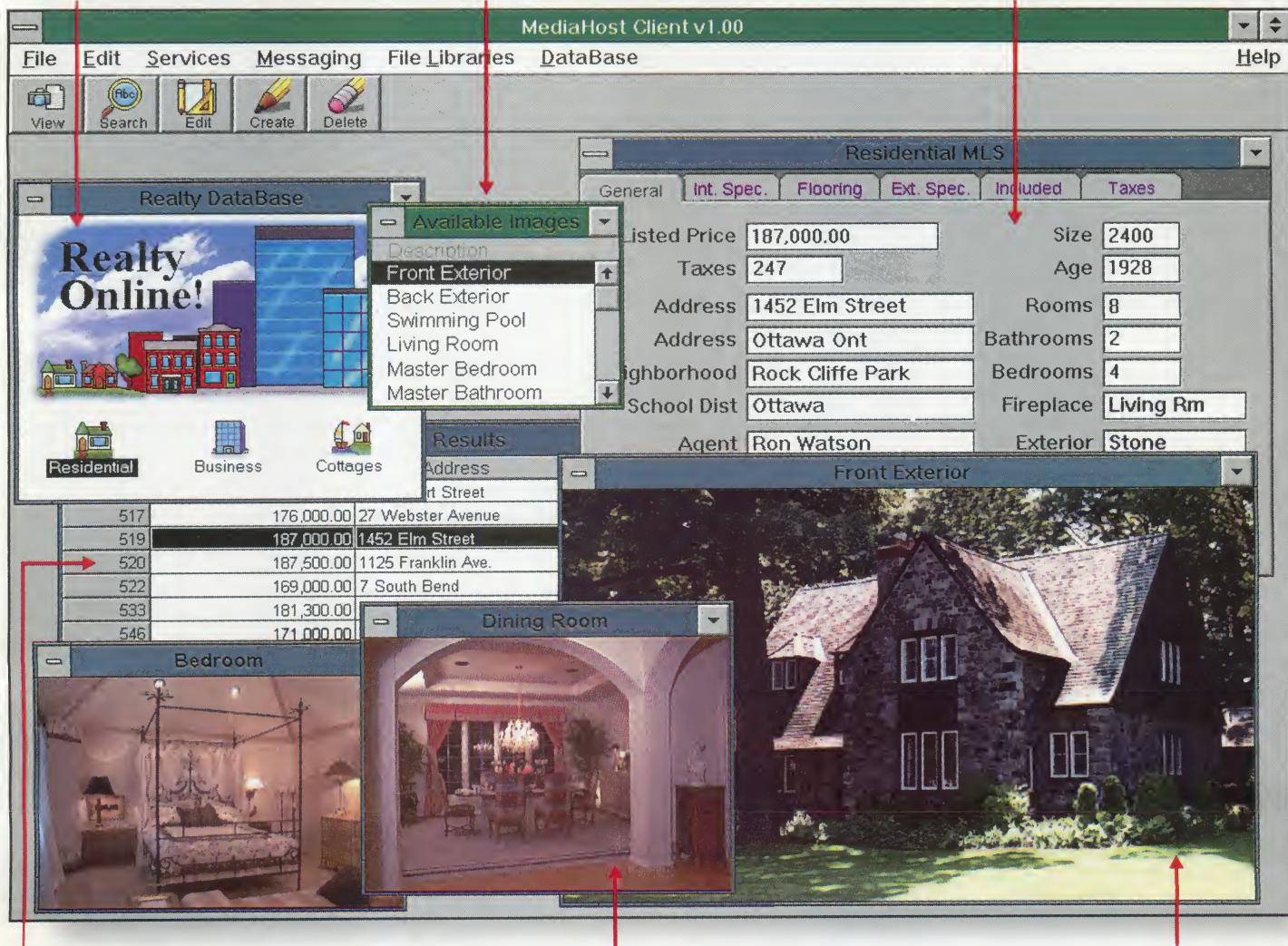
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And among all the trends, there is one inexorable shift that we ignore at our peril —the shift from monopoly competition.

In an era in which the Soviet Union has fallen and capitalism is ascendant in Eastern Europe, it should be no surprise that competition is about to reach even our local telephone exchanges. Competitive access providers are increasingly providing interstate telephony service to businesses that were once the sole domain of local telephone companies. Cable companies are seeking authority to provide local telephone service, and a recent survey reports that a third of cable subscribers would be willing to subscribe to comparably-priced telephone services provided by their cable company.

New technologies offer the promise of competition. Consider the growth of wireless services. The number of cellular subscribers in the United States is expected to double by 1998, while entrepreneurs are planning to ring the Earth with satellites that will bring telephone services to people everywhere on the planet.

The auction of PCS spectrum that begins in December, as a result of this Administration's leadership, may well reshape the structure of the marketplace by introducing wireless telephony competitive with traditional telephone wires.

Some believe that, by the end of the decade, wireless telephone service could offer service at prices broadly competitive for some customers with traditional, wire-line telephone companies. That change alone would bring additional competition into the local and long-distance telephone markets.

In the long run, competition will come. But we must confront, as well, the short run — a time when significant regulatory monopolies exist and when policy makers must confront the choice: Towards competition or towards monopoly?

What would happen if we tried to resist the trend to competition? First, technology and innovation would suffer. The opening of the long-distance market to competition drove down prices, improved quality, fostered innovative services and spurred the deployment of new national fiber-optic networks.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, failure to end monopolies might, in fact,

bring higher prices to residential telephone users.

Surprised? You shouldn't be. State regulators are, quite rightly, permitting alternative carriers to provide telephone service to business customers - a trend that will continue even in the absence of new federal deregulating regulation.

But partial deregulation, if it stopped there, could actually lead to increased upward pressure on residential rates, as local telephone companies seek to replace lost business revenues. Residential customers could find themselves occupying the worst place in the marketplace — isolated from the innovation and lower prices of competition but tied to an increasingly unprofitable monopoly provider. That would not be in the public interest.

We cannot return to the past and we cannot go halfway. The market for computers exemplifies the advantages of competition — a high-technology product with increasing power and lower prices. Consumers for information products want what consumers always want —higher quality, lower prices and more choice.

The only viable path is towards competition. But as we have recently discovered, the right course is not easy to attain.

I was tremendously disappointed by the failure of reform legislation in this Congress. Throughout the year, the content of legislation increasingly conformed to the Administration's goals. The House of Representatives, led by Chairmen Dingell and Brooks, and Congressmen Markey and Fields, passed reform legislation by votes of 423 to 5 and 423 to 4. The Senate Commerce Committee approved S. 1822 with strong, bi-partisan support.

Then reform came to a stop under a barrage of special-interest attacks and "non-negotiable" demands. No one was immune from special-interest appeals.

I have often talked about a little girl in my home town of Carthage, Tennessee sitting at her computer and traveling the information highway to explore the vast resources of the Library of Congress. But this September that little girl could have found in her parents' mail a letter from her local telephone company. "Please," it said, "keep S. 1822 from coming to a vote this year." Even as the telephone companies were engaged in what they described as serious, good-faith negotiations, this telephone

company tried to disconnect its customers from the future.

But those tactics won't work. Regulatory change will come. Because this fight is not being fought for the benefit of particular competitors, even competitors with entrenched market interests. It's being fought for consumers.

It's not being fought for partisan advantage, either. One of the two main House bills was cosponsored by a Democrat, Ed Markey, and a Republican, Jack Fields; support on the House floor came from Democrats and Republicans, including Newt Gingrich. Seven of the nine Republicans on the Senate Commerce Committee voted to approve S. 1822.

But the change that we seek must truly lead us to a world of real competition.

How do we do that?

In particular, how can we resolve the interests of the Regional Bell Operating Companies and their potential competitors?

The RBOCs legitimately want to use their expertise to compete in other markets — providing long-distance telephony, manufacturing equipment, supplying video programs. They worry that they will become "hollow monopolies" — the purveyor of local telephone services, but only to customers that others do not wish to serve.

On the other hand, their potential competitors, including long-distance and cable companies, are suspicious of the RBOCs. These companies fear that if the power of local telephone companies is unleashed before there is effective competition, they will become prey to RBOC monopolists.

This debate is at the heart of the matter.

Some would solve this conflict by having government declare "hands-off" and not trouble itself with the consequences. But unleashing monopoly power is not a path to competition.

Senator Dole, in his list of "non-negotiable" amendments, proposed another approach.

He suggests, for example, that regulatory monopolies be freed from most regulation when one — just one — competitor enters their marketplace. That means that a telephone company with 99% of the market would be treated as if it had no market power at all. That's not real-

istic, and it's certainly not real competition.

We must do better than that, to protect the public interest and to promote private competition.

We should begin with the basic principles that this Administration advocates as the basis for legislative reform — private investment, real competition, open access, flexible governmental action and a commitment to universal service.

Most fundamentally, we must remove barriers to entry, allowing competition for the delivery of local telephone service.

But our experience, and the experience of regulators around the world, demonstrates that free entry will not by itself be enough.

Interconnection and unbundling will be critical. Additional governmental action may be required to secure viable competitive opportunities for new entrants into local telephone markets. For example, we have proposed that companies lacking market power be exempt from the kind of price regulation that may be legitimately applied to companies that retain significant market power.

The creation of competition in the local telephone exchanges is not just the business of Washington. Around the nation, progressive states — New York is one — are experimenting with methods of bringing the advantages of competition to their residents. Just last week, New York State approved the "Rochester Plan," which allows new competitors, like Time Warner, to provide local telephone service in Rochester while ensuring that local telephone rates will not rise for at least seven years.

That's great. By bringing competition to consumers, states can help their consumers right now. By experimenting with different forms of regulation, states can provide valuable experience on how real competition can be achieved. By action now, states can demonstrate the inevitability of competition.

That lesson is the most crucial of all. Because competition in the local telephone exchanges is a fundamental component of competition in the information marketplace at large.

We do not impose competition as a punishment on those companies that have been granted regulatory monopolies, whether in telephony or cable or anywhere else.

Rather we promote competition as an achievement in which they will be able to share. For example, local telephone companies must themselves be able to enter the long-distance markets, to manufacture equipment, and to supply video services. With safeguards to prevent the abuse of continuing market power, we will be on our way to the information marketplace that I described earlier this year — one in which any company will be able to provide any service to any potential customer.

But the marketplace, and the interests of consumers, cannot wait. That is why we must push forward on all fronts. Let me mention just a few.

First, the Administration will work with the states — with governors, state legislatures, and state regulatory commissions — to encourage competition in the local loop. We are planning a Federal-State-Local Government Telecom Summit to take place in early 1995, an occasion to meet and voluntarily discuss both state and federal telecommunications policies. We will consider participating in state proceedings as well.

Second, the Administration will also support measures by the FCC to promote competition by opening up interstate markets, promoting number assignments and portability, and fostering interstate interconnection. We will urge the Commission to move forward on these initiatives.

We will also encourage the Commission to work with the States in order to facilitate an interoperable, accessible National Information Infrastructure.

Both state and FCC action will help to create the conditions for reform. Businesses that face new markets and new competitors will be willing, I believe, to get down to the business of change.

Third, we will continue to press for federal legislation in the next Congress. And we will join efforts with state governments and industry participants that have demonstrated their commitment to competition.

The passage of federal legislation remains absolutely necessary. Technology may bring some additional competition in the near future, but not enough and certainly not fast enough. In a world of 18-month product cycles, innovation delayed is innovation denied. Legislation is necessary to serve the public interest in opening markets now, and to ensure the achievement of our

other basic goals, including universal services and flexible government action. Legislation is necessary to ensure that the United States adopts national principles that permit it to remain a global leader in information technology. How ironic it would be if, from the vantage point of a Global Information Infrastructure, we faced a united Europe but a fractured United States?

Finally, we will continue to work toward our goal of connecting every classroom, library, hospital and clinic to the NII by the year 2000.

Last January I challenged the private sector to work with us to realize this goal and I repeat that challenge today. The private sector, as much as any citizen, has a stake in the education and good health of every American. We must work together, if not voluntarily, then through progressive legislation.

I have talked today about markets. But the impact of our reforms will be felt by people.

This Administration will work hard to free up markets for competition and profits.

This Administration will work equally hard to ensure that our children and our workers and our citizens in general enjoy the benefits of information technology to build better lives and better communities.

We are not embarked just on grand technology policy nor even economic policy. When a pregnant mother can be monitored by her doctor from home, or parents buy educational software for their children, or workers are able to be more productive because of new information technologies, then we have used innovative technology to pursue the American dream.

This is our tradition.

We must make sure that our national information highway bypasses no one. We cannot allow this country, or any community within our country, to become a communications ghost town. For to be left off the beaten track in the information age is to be cut off from the future. ♦

RUMORS AND FACTOIDS

CIIX board member Bob Collet (Sprint) dropped a bombshell into the COMM-PRIV mailing list during the first week in November. Despite an overwhelming and quite binding vote by the full membership at the September 14th meeting in Atlanta to postpone any form of filtering at the CIX router until March, the board has unilaterally decided to impose filtering November 15th ANYWAY. No one knows quite what to make of this other than the organization is now completely out of control of the membership and now openly the personal toy of Marty Schoffstall (PSI) and Rick Adams (UUNET). Karl Denninger of Chicago's MCS and Joe Stroup, of a similar service in Phoenix, both resigned from CIX immediately. The announcement was even more inexplicable in that Collet admitted that filtering probably would have very little impact on anyone - a view that has emerged from much analysis of traffic by a number of interested providers. We'll know November 15th.

Sprint meanwhile is increasingly interested in the Internet game, and seems ever more clueless as to what it means. Inside sources indicate that the company has sold some 27,000 T1 line connection to the Internet since January 1994 - mostly to businesses. Additionally some experiments with SLIP connections for businesses have held some surprises. A bank of nearly 1000 ports was essentially cratered virtually on announcement. They've started to dabble with domain name service and news servers. They know they have a hot one, but seem unsure what to do with it.

MCI was very hot on getting their net up November 1 with a product rollout for December 1. It doesn't appear to be happening. We're not sure that the problem is technical, but they've suddenly cooled on several early installations and rumor has it that the turn-on didn't happen very smoothly. Delays could run into the first quarter of '95.

America Online is struggling again with demand. The latest involves rumors or perhaps more accurately reports and great anger among some of their caller base about e-mail that has simply run off onto the floor and disappeared. Discussions on the service are reaching the "ugly mob" level about this issue - with little in the way of response from AOL management. Some e-mail was lost for good in late October and delivery delays of some five hours were common. Mail gatewayed to the Internet seemed to be the most problematic.

Software Etc. bought out Babbages - adding some 800 retail sites to their existing chain of nearly 400 Software Etc. stores. They are now indisputably the largest retailer of software in the world. They have opened about 10 of the new supersites consisting of a Software Etc., Barnes and Noble Booksellers, and Starbucks Coffee. We attended the grand opening of one of these on Colorado Boulevard in Denver and it was impressive. The Software Etc. portion of the facility focuses on software and a few

magazines - leaving the book selling to Barnes and Noble. And Cappuccino does go with. Notably, we saw an entire display full of Zoom 28.8kbps modems at prices in the sub \$150 range - and already moving on opening day. LANned interactive games in the store itself were a big draw. And Software Etc. seems to be a continued proponent of the Prodigy online service.

The Ziff Davis conglomerate went a piece at a time. Ziff Interactive went to Thompson - a Canadian company. SOFTBANK, a Japanese software distributor and publisher, had expressed an interest in various elements of the company but settled for Ziff Davis Expositions at \$202 million and renamed it Interop Expositions, Inc. Forstman Little, an investment company, bought out the publishing end of it for \$1.4 billion.

Bell Atlantic wooed Prodigy's General Manager of Communications Michael Greenbaum after what appears to be a pointed and prolonged courtship. Greenbaum made the move in October. Details are a little sketchy at this point, but it doesn't appear Greenbaum has taken any sudden interest in selling Yellow Page ads or dealing with telephone Company switches. Rather, it would appear Bell Atlantic has developed a STRONG interest in rolling a serious online service on par with CompuServe, Prodigy, or AOL. And it may be about to break out of the "let's have more meetings" phase that most of the telcos get bogged down in at any attempt to do anything.

ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) is taking on sudden life - probably due to the insatiable desire for bandwidth on SLIP/PPP connection to the Internet. U.S. West, widely thought the trailing end of the ISDN caravan has suddenly broken wind with ISDN availability - \$36 plus per minute charges or \$72 per month flat rate for 2B+D connections. ISDN consists of two 64 kbps digital channels (B channels) and one 16 kbps supervisor channel (D channel) and can conceivably provide 128 kbps connections to the Internet from the home. Ameritech is reportedly launching the residential assault with very attractive pricing. And even Bell Atlantic down in Atlanta, which has been selling it for some time, is reported to have a technician down there who not only claims he successfully got one working, but thinks the rest of the installers could be trained to do the same thing - if he can just find his notes. In any event, one of the things holding back ISDN has been an ongoing disbelief in telco circles that anyone would want it. The Internet connection thing is the first application that has actually made sense to them, and they seem to suddenly be rushing to get it into play. Dennis Hayes has been campaigning actually quite actively for ISDN for several years - flying around the country and appearing at PUC meetings etc. for any gathering of 15 people who would listen that ISDN needed to happen. He may have won.

Caller ID is supposed to be fully deployed nationwide in one form or another by April 13th, 1995. Currently, areas with Caller ID can only reliably get source information from numbers in their own area. According to the FCC,

the originating caller information is supposed to be deliverable nationally by April 13th.

Tagline seen in a newsgroup - "Press any key to continue - Press any other key to abort."

A national survey commissioned by the Audit Bureau of Circulations found that 51.8% of Americans had never heard the term "information superhighway" before. That would appear to us as if 48.2% have - a glass about half full from this point of view.

AT&T has used optical amplifier repeaters to transmit 10 Gbps data streams (10 billion bits per second) over a section of the COLUMBUS-II undersea cable. We've predicted huge bandwidth gains based on AT&T Bell Lab development of all optical amplifiers in past issues of Boardwatch. But apparently working switches are already online at AT&T. The COLUMBUS-II cable is set to go online in December to link Mexico, the U.S., Portugal, Spain, and Italy. Fiber cables carry light that is modulated to carry data, and the bandwidth of light is very high. But every 25 miles or so, the light has to be amplified by "repeater" circuits. In the past, to do so, a detector circuit received the pulsed light stream, converted it to electrical signals, which in turn were used to modulate a laser light source. In this way, the signal was amplified. But the conversion from light to electrical signals and back to light comprised a serious bottleneck to speed. The optical switch allows the light to modulate a laser beam directly, and potentially offers bandwidth increases of several orders of magnitude. It's happening faster than we thought...

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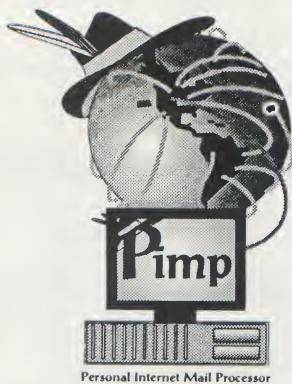
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by Gary W Funk
Gizmologist

TRAVELING SOFTWARE LAPLINK WIRELESS WITH AIRSHARE

Working at an office and then at home can lead to some very confused files. Yes, files do get confused. Most think it is the user that misunderstands, but after years of research, I have found that it is truly the files that get twisted as I always know what the file is meant to be but the file seems to want to be other things.

Writing a program on your desktop computer at the office, then taking it home on your laptop to do some late night revisions, then back to work the next day on your desktop to correct the code per the reports that came in from the beta testers can cause a loss of code. Now you have versions on two machines and you don't remember if you copied the changes you made last night on your laptop to your desktop when you came in this morning.

One solution is LapLink Wireless, a radio-based link allowing users to update and manage the exchange of information between desktop and laptop. The connection is made through the use of a modem like module called AirShare. These modules plug into the computers standard serial port and allow transfers at speeds up to 115,200 bps at a range of up to 30 feet. This allows computers separated by walls and even floors to connect to each other.

About three ounces each, the AirShare modules are smaller than a deck of playing cards and have a 6" to 12" DB9 serial cable attached. A small slide switch lets you select one of three radio channels. This allows for up to three separate pairs of units in the same area. Two LEDs built into the front give you the status on the operation of the module. A red led indicates power and active port connection, a green led tells you that the modules are communicating.

The units are powered in one of three ways. One AC power adapter is included to power the module connected to the desktop. The other module can be powered by an AC adapter (if you can find one such as the adapter for the Hayes Optima 144 Pocket Edition), a pass-through PS/2 mouse port cable, or a 9V battery pack (shown in the photo) which attaches to the module.

While the AirShare modules give you the connection, the LapLink Wireless Windows software is the heart of this package, and does the real work. The software includes Synchro Plus, an application for Windows that can detect updated files and transfer them with no user intervention.

When the user comes within 30 feet of the desktop computer, the AirShare modules communicate and connect. When Synchro Plus detects this connection, it begins the synchronization tasks which were pre-



Catch some air with a wireless laplink

defined by the user. This process does require that the laptop and AirShare module be in operation, and that the desktop and Windows Synchro Plus software be running, which is simple to remember.

Both DOS and Windows users can also share local and network drives, and local and network printers connected to the two computers. This makes it easy to connect a laptop that does not have windows to your network. This is also a great way to move your laptop from office to office and maintain the connection to a LAN to access files and a printer.

Another program included in this package is LapLink Remote Access for Windows. This is the underlying communications software for LapLink Wireless. It runs under any Windows application in the background and makes drives and printers look to the remote computer like its own local drives and printers. Using LapLink Remote Access with a modem, will allow you to access your LAN through your desktop computer from wherever you are. This gives a new freedom with a laptop. You can now call in and update your database, print reports, and receive your new mail.

While this package is meant to use the AirShare modules, and you will want to use them, LapLink Wireless is not limited to the wireless connection. You can use a modem or even your LAN to update files, synchronize files, connect to printers and even copy entire disk drives.

At a suggested price of **\$299.95**, this gadget is affordable and somewhat practical. Even users with a LAN will find LapLink Wireless makes sharing and updating files fast and easy. Traveling Software, Inc., 18702 North Creek Parkway, Bothell, Washington, 98011; **(206)483-8088** voice; **(206)487-1284** fax.

CONTACT:

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MOSAIC NETSCAPE NETWORK NAVIGATOR

In 1989, Tim Berners-Lee was working at CERN, the European Particle Physics Laboratory. He wanted to collaborate on high-energy physics research with other scientists around the world. So he invented the **HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP)** and the **HyperText Markup Language (HTML)** to create a globally linked hypertext document he called the World Wide Web.

The World Wide Web was an interesting sidelight to the Internet for some time. But last year, Mark Andreeson of the National Center for Super Computing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois headed a team that developed a graphical interface for the World Wide Web - what has come to be loosely referred to as a "browser." It included a concept termed in-line graphics allowing you to create documents containing photographic or other images, sound, video clips, and other multimedia elements. The original version worked on UNIX X Windows workstations. After a National Science Foundation grant to develop it further, it appeared for Macintosh and Microsoft Windows platforms. And with the birth of this program, titled **NCSA Mosaic**, the web caught fire.

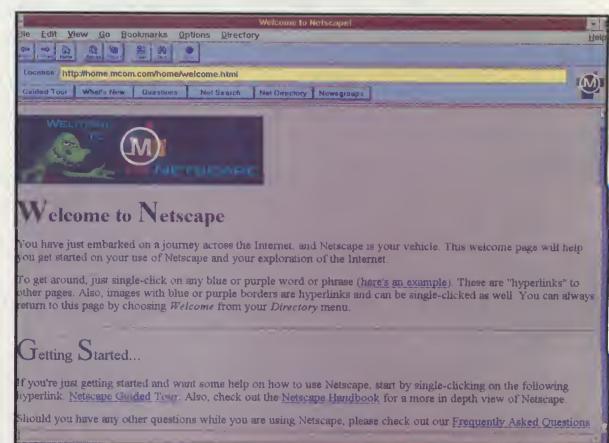
In less than a year, WWW has moved from the interesting sideshow category to an explosion of sites. With MOSAIC, it provides the kind of graphical presentation many institutions were looking for that allows inclusion of various fonts, photo-realistic images, charts, and so forth. October 1994 saw a veritable explosion of new WWW sites by major institutions including TIME Magazine (<http://www.timeinc.com>), AT&T (www.att.com), the Library of Congress (<http://lcweb.loc.gov>), the Louvre Museum in Paris (<http://mistral.enst.fr/~picoche/louvre/>), CompuServe (<http://www.compserv.com>), Prodigy (<http://www.astranet.com>), Delphi (<http://www.delphi.com/FX/FXTOP.html>) and even the White House itself putting up WebServers (<http://www.white-house.gov>).

None of this has been lost on the software development community. We are currently receiving the "Mosaic program of the week" here at Boardwatch about one per week, most marginally different or improved over the original NCSA Mosaic. But a new program titled **NetScape** has rather taken us by storm. We think it's the next step in the evolution of Mosaic as the interface for the Internet, and WWW servers as the next evolutionary step in bulletin boards/online services.

In April, Andreeson left NCSA and joined John Clark, the founder of Silicon Graphics, Inc., to form a new company titled **Mosaic Communications Corporation** in Mountain View California. On October 13 they announced a new Mosaic program titled **Mosaic NetScape Network Navigator** in a version **0.9 beta** release. It is FREE for personal use and available from <ftp://mcom.com> in the **/netscape** directory as **NSCAPE09.ZIP**. A commercial license is **\$99** per user. The official 1.0 release is expected in November and it will likewise be free for personal use.

This program is so far head and shoulders above any other Mosaic we've seen that it's embarrassing. Unlike most Mosaics, it is terribly simple to install. The ZIP file uncompresses to four basic files, two of which are informational. You put it in the **C:\NETSCAPE** directory. You must have a

- NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR
- URLs - I AM NOT
- TRUMPET WINSOCK 2.0
- WEBSITE EXPLOSION
- WHITE HOUSE WEB SITE



NetScape browser

WINSOCK.DLL interface to the Internet. This can be an ethernet Internet Protocol connection, or a Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP) or Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) account. But no TCP/IP or **WINSOCK.DLL** comes with Netscape. We used ours with the free **Trumpet Winsock** program by Peter Tattam of New Zealand.

We found the Netscape program not only came up immediately, but all options and configuration items were very cunningly and naturally arrayed through the program. Whenever we went to add something or use a feature, we somehow stumbled across just what we needed. Part of the key here is documentation. It is woven so elegantly into the product, we are never quite sure what is in the help files, and what is part of the Netscape home page. When you first bring it up, it "calls home" and brings down documents from Netscape. Part of the mission of the Netscape home page seems to be to introduce new users to the World Wide Web, and it features dozens of links to other interesting web sites. During the week we played with this, they seemed to be adding to this list of WWW sites in a very active fashion.

Aside from superb documentation and easy installation, the program is just smoother and easier to use than any other Mosaic we've dealt with. There are a couple of key reasons for this.

First, the program is actually designed with a 14.4 kbps SLIP connection in mind. Much of the software and net development to date seems to come from people in universities and institutions that are already well connected to the net, and assumes you have a 1.544 Mbps T1 line hooked to the back of your machine. Most of us don't. But Netscape was quite deliberately designed to work over 14.4 kbps SLIP or PPP connection. I can't say SLIP over a 14.4 kbps modem actually approaches bearable this way, but it's an interesting approach. And there are three keys to how it does this. It caches things quite intelligently so you don't repeatedly keep sucking down the same files. Second, it actually opens a number of simultaneous connections to the Web server to get documents. If you click on something that leads you to a page with text and four inline graphic GIF images, you may find that it establishes up to five separate TCP/IP sessions with the host to try to suck all of it down simultaneously.

But the improvement that probably makes this program FEEL so much faster is that you can interact with the docu-

Newsgroup:
comp.infosystems.www.providers

- Need help with NCSA's whptd?
 - [Dennis Boerboom](#) (35)
 - [Randolph Chung](#) (19)
 - [Jim Brown](#) (28)
 - [SAUERS MICHAEL P](#) (22)
 - [Peter Molettiere](#) (24)
- Here it is, world!
 - [kasperek](#) (5)
 - [Pieter van der Walt](#) (18)
- Re: On-line "My Weekly Reader" - "Jesse Garon" (14)
- Clinton to unveil White House WWW/Mosaic
 - [Jeffrey Ray Thieleke](#) (18)
 - [schwarz](#) (12)
 - [Steve Bonne](#) (9)
 - [Jonathan Magid](#) (17)

Newsgroups via NetScape web connection

ment WHILE the document downloads. Most Mosaics make you wait until the entire current page and all its graphics are downloaded to your machine before you can do anything. Netscape doesn't. It generally downloads the text first, displaying it as it goes, and then fills in the graphics. Meanwhile, you could conceivably click on something on the screen - aborting all that and taking you somewhere else.

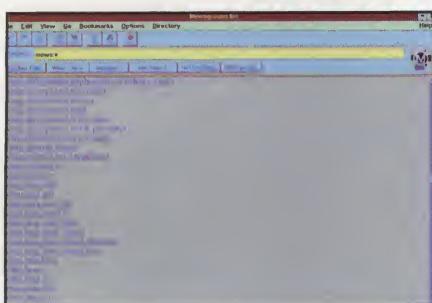
The result is that Netscape IS actually much faster than other Mosaics, but FEELS even faster than it is. Fast is good. We like fast.

One thing we have noticed about Mosaic and WWW is that **GIF** images are big and take awhile to download. Others have apparently noticed too. We are starting to see **JPEG** images as an option, and on some sites that's the only graphics they have. **JPEG** (Joint

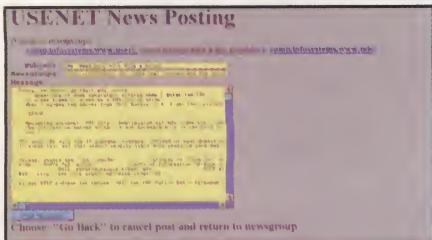
Photographic Experts Group) is an image compression technology that allows dramatic compression of photorealistic images (Boardwatch, September 1993). Netscape has support for JPEG built in. You don't add anything. You don't do anything. You just view smaller images quicker.

We were surprised to find that Sun OS sound files (.AU or .SND) were NOT natively supported in Netscape, since they do seem to be in the original NCSA Mosaic. The **OPTIONS** item on the menu allows you to configure many things in Netscape, and like all Mosaics, it is quite extensible in allowing you to "hook" various viewers, video players, sound players, etc. into the program to view or listen to the endless variety of different data files that could conceivably be presented on a web server. In the 0.9 beta, we found the process of doing this very easy, but the results often poor. For some reason, it tended to lose the file name in passing it to the called program.

But the big improvement in Netscape is actually in communications. We've been a little uneasy watching the Internet/WWW community make the same mistake Knight-Ridder, Prodigy, and others have in the past. People do not necessarily want to simply consume prepared information screens. They will do that for awhile, but after just a few hours of the novelty of accessing information in however interesting a fashion, the only thing that has held their attention online on an ongoing basis is communications. This has been historically true from the beginning of online services. People online want to acquire software and talk to each other, and aside from a very small percentage of researchers and news junkies, the entire concept of "information" as it is normally bandied about has been a pretty wide and repeated loser. With Netscape, we are starting to see a melding of a graphic interface with real tools for communication, as well as linking to existing Internet services. You can FTP from Netscape. You can define



List of newsgroups from NetScape



Posting to newsgroups

URLS - I AM NOT!

Mosaic and WWW have brought to the fore the concept of URLs - the **HTTP://WWW.BOARDWATCH.COM** type of notation defining a service on the Internet. For years there have been different types of services on the Internet, and it seemed for each they were described in slightly different ways. Often this included the site name, the directory, and sometimes a filename. URLs are **Universal Resource Locators** - a concept for the standardized presentation of how to access a service and often to locate a specific object on the service.

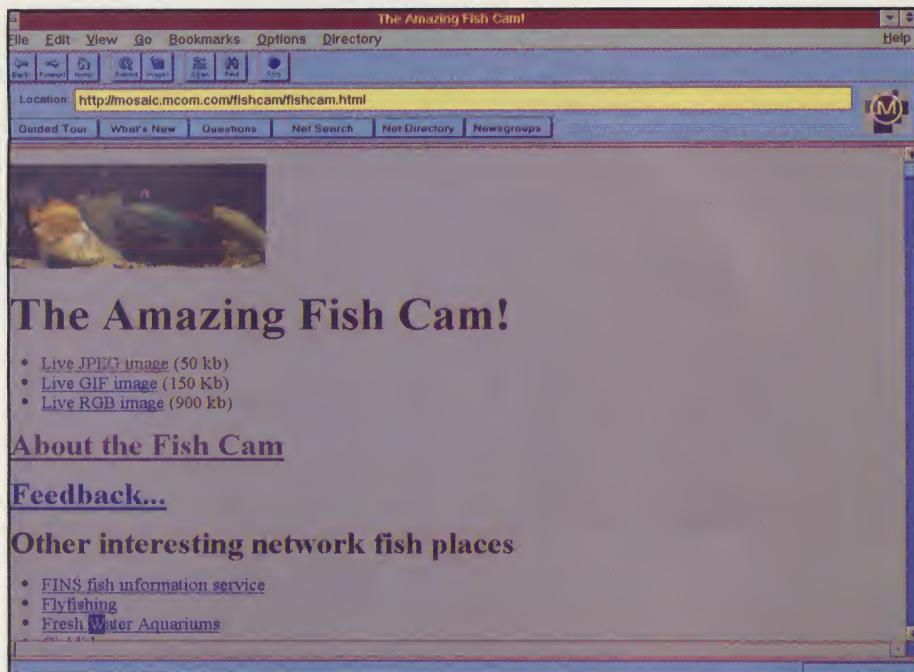
A URL typically starts off with a site descriptor terminated with a colon and two slashes. **HTTP://** defines a site running the HyperText Transfer Protocol used by the World Wide Web. But you could as easily use **TELNET://** or **FTP://** or **GOPHER://**. This is the type of site described, and often gives you a hint as to what software program you will need to access it. All information to the RIGHT of the colon is used to further describe the object available there, and the exact form may vary depending on the type of site.

For example: **file://ftp.trumpet.com.au/pub/trumpet/twsk20b.zip** defines a file located at the site **ftp.trumpet.com.au** in the subdirectory **/pub/trumpet** under the file name **twsk20b.zip**. Using an ftp program, you could logon to **ftp.trumpet.com.au**, use the **CD** command (UNIX Change Directory) to change directories to **/pub/trumpet**, and then the **GET** command to fetch the **TWSK20B.ZIP** file.

Similarly **TELNET://boardwatch.com** would indicate a telnet site, and you could use a telnet program to logon to **boardwatch.com**.

So to connect to a site on the World Wide Web from Mosaic, you would select the **OPEN URL** or **OPEN LOCATION** function from the menu, and enter a URL such as **http://www.boardwatch.com** in its entirety. URLs are generally NOT case sensitive, but you may want to observe case sensitivity with specific path and filenames if given. ♦

a telnet client so that if you encounter a telnet site reference in a document, you can click on it and logon. But the most amazing thing in Netscape is one of the most shit-hot USENET News Readers we've ever seen in ANY program anywhere. It was unexpected, and even better, it is easy to configure and remarkably easy to use.



The Amazing Fish Cam

Right up at the top of the screen was a button that said plain as day **NEWS-GROUPS**. We stumbled around through the **OPTIONS** configuration area and found a place to put in a **NNTP** (Net News Transfer Protocol) server site. We typed in news.rmii.com, which we barely knew might be one, and clicked the button. Voila, a list of newsgroups. Click a newsgroup. A BEAUTIFUL display appeared listing messages in blue by their subject lines. Click on any message, and you can read it. When you hit the back arrow, you are back at the list of messages, with the message read changed from blue to black. You can respond to any message so easily it's embarrassing. We found this news reader profoundly easy to use, and haven't enjoyed newsgroups as much as this ever.

But the best was yet to come. We kept finding HTTP references in news articles highlighted in blue. So we clicked one. BLAM. We were connected to a Webserver somewhere (like Norway I think). Back arrow - we're back at the message. Netscape actually scans messages for HTML references and treats them as active. Take me....I'm yours.

Amazingly, we could also send private e-mail. No BS about POP servers or SMTP or anything. I guess it's going through the news server. You can't receive e-mail, you just put a return address of where you DO have an e-mail account in the configuration and it simulates that as your return address.

The Netscape site also seems to take it as a mission not just to help you learn the program, but also to help you find interesting things to do with it. They have endless lists of "cool" sites to connect to, a cool site of the

day, and links to just about anyone who's anything on World Wide Web.

And they're clearly having fun with this company and this software. One of their programmer's, Lou Montulli, has added a function to the Mosaic Communications Web site titled **The Amazing FishCam**. This is a Silicon Graphics Indy Cam connected to an SGI workstation. It's aimed at a fish tank in Mark Lannett's office, and takes a photo once per minute. The photo is in RGB format, but is also converted to GIF and JPEG. Mark sits at the other side of the tank, and is inevitably destined to become known as the "man behind the fishtank." You can view it "up-to-the-minute" so to speak to see what Mark and the fish are up to.

The 1.0 version will be released in November and will include encryption and server authentication. The company seems aimed at selling Web server software at **\$1495** for a basic server, and some **\$5000** for a version that supports the encryption and server authentication features many sites are demanding for security reasons.

There are some ongoing rumors of legal difficulties between Andreessen and the University of Illinois - home of NCSA Mosaic. We don't quite know what to make of them, and it will likely take a number of months if not years for that to unwind.

Meanwhile, Tim Berners-Lee, the originator of WWW, has formed a group titled the **W3 Consortium**, an international consortium dedicated to developing the web as a global infrastructure capable of supporting commercial activities. Berners-Lee, currently at MIT's Laboratory of Computer Science in

Cambridge Massachusetts, will serve as director of the new organization, and Mosaic Communications has announced they have joined as a charter member. One of the goals of the organization is to develop reference software components to give everyone access to the web.

The speed improvements, addition of one of the most bitching newsgroup readers (we'll never read them any other way again) on the planet, and the ease of installation and use of this program put it in a class all by itself. It is also available for Mac and X Windows. Mosaic Communications Corporation, 650 Castro Street, Suite 500, Mountain View, CA 94041; 800-NETSITE; info@mcom.com; <http://mosaic.mcom.com>. ◆

TRUMPET WINSOCK VERSION 2.0 RELEASED

For PC compatible computers, the advent of Windows and the more recent introduction of the WINSOCK.DLL concept has spurred a tremendous amount of software development for Internet communications for the PC platform, and has proven to be the enabling technology allowing connection of PCs to the network.

WINSOCK is patterned after the Berkeley Sockets interface for UNIX. WINSOCK.DLL allows multiple programs to access TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) services without knowing a whole lot about TCP/IP or the Internet for that matter. TCP/IP appears to the application programs very little differently from DOS file services. So it dramatically eases the development of software for the network, and also allows a user to have many different applications running under Windows simultaneously to do various tasks over the network.

WINSOCK provides an interface for programs to connect to, but it also connects to the TCP/IP communications stream itself. Generally, it can do this in a couple of general ways. For those of us whose employers have connected the company LAN to the Internet via a router and leased line, individual workstations in the company are connected to the LAN through the usual LAN Network Interface Card in the workstation or PC. WINSOCK can use what is termed a "packet driver" to connect to the TCP/IP Internet through this network card, usually at the same time the rest of the machine is connecting through Novell's IPX or SPX protocol, or any other protocol for that matter. So if you have a TCP/IP connection for your LAN, a packet driver, and a working WINSOCK.DLL on your machine, you are essentially connected and can use a Mosaic or other application program at will.

For the rest of us, a dialup account with an Internet services provider is necessary. Typically these are offered at 14.4 kbps or increasingly 28.8 kbps speeds using ordinary analog

modems. Some 64 kbps ISDN accounts (Integrated Services Digital Network) are appearing, but very slowly. Performance Systems International is reported to be offering ISDN for as little as \$29 per month. These services usually use either the **Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP)** or the **Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP)** and can be found for as little as \$15 per month for dialup accounts with a limited number of hours per month, up to a couple of hundred dollars per month for a dedicated private connection you leave up around the clock. Increasingly, most software is supporting BOTH SLIP and PPP so the distinction between the two is becoming less important in some ways. In general, PPP is a bit better standardized at this point, provides a bit better error correction, and may be just a hair slower than SLIP. SLIP comes in two main varieties, regular SLIP and compressed SLIP (CSLIP) which is a bit more efficient for most uses.

Probably the most ubiquitous **WINSOCK.DLL** available was written originally as freeware by Peter Tattam of the University of Tasmania in Australia. The **TRUMPET WINSOCK** program works quite well, and since it was originally distributed free of charge, it has become the most commonly deployed WINSOCK program around. As such, nearly all of the freeware and shareware Internet applications for Windows work with this program first. Ideally, all **WINSOCK.DLLs** are interchangeable as they are all written to the same standard. In practice, anomalies abound. In fact, we were amazed to learn that Spry's AIR series, packaged in the Internet In A Box product that is selling THOUSANDS of copies per week at this point, is quite badly broken, and the **WINSOCK.DLL** is virtually unusable with other programs. This is going to pose some serious confusion in coming months.

On November 3rd, Tattam released **version 2.0 of Trumpet Winsock** with a number of enhancements. Most notably, it is now shareware with a **\$25** registration fee, though not crippled in any way we could find. A company has been formed to support it, **Trumpet Software International Pty. Ltd.** Some product support is available and commercial site licenses are available as well.

Functionally, the biggest enhancement to Version 2.0 Revision B is the addition of a

fully functional Point to Point Protocol (PPP). SLIP has been enhanced with Van Jacobsen Compression. A FIREWALL function has been added to allow you to prevent those on the net from accessing YOUR machine as you are accessing the net.

We had used earlier versions of Trumpet with our LAN connection, but hadn't tried the SLIP function until now. The program features a script language that is less than a joy, but very capable. You can create a **LOGIN.CMD** script to dial a service, enter your logon name and password, and select the service such as SLIP or PPP that you want. At that point, the program takes over and WINSOCK just runs in the background as you run your applications. In fact, the program can easily be configured to automatically run the logon script to connect on demand. In this way, you simply click on your Mosaic icon for example, IT calls Trumpet Winsock, and Trumpet dials your host service and makes the connection quite automatically. You can even set an inactivity timeout so that if you leave your machine for five minutes it will automatically log you out. In this way, you can achieve an on-demand connection to the Internet using a dialup service and modem.

We tested SLIP, CSLIP, and PPP against our beta version of eSoft's Internet Protocol Adapter (**IPAD**) using Hayes Optima 288 V.FC modems at both ends. When manually dialing, after you logon and actually get a PPP or SLIP session going, it is necessary to press the **ESC** key to actually get the session going so you can run applications. Trumpet dutifully reminds us of this in all capital letters but somehow we kept forgetting this last step and got poor results until we did. With the **LOGIN.CMD** script, it wasn't an issue, and the automatic scripted connection IS how you want to do this type of connection anyway. The new version 2.0 allows you to capture your own IP address dynamically. A number of SLIP services assign an IP address as you logon, so you might have a different one each time you call. Winsock 2.0 will capture this assigned IP address and store it as your IP address, allowing use with these services.

WINSOCK allows you to keep a trace log of an amazing variety of things. We found it worked quite well with Mosaic Communications Netscape program. There was one anomaly, if you left NetScape WHILE it was

in the process of receiving a document, Winsock got a little lost as to what to do with all the incoming data now that the application program was gonzo. It issued a Windows error message and folded up its tent.

Beyond this, we found the 2.0 version to work fine in PPP, CSLIP, and SLIP modes. Accustomed to a 56 kbps leased line connection, we found 28.8 kbps SLIP or PPP a bit less than exciting in some ways as a general observation, but Trumpet handled them well.

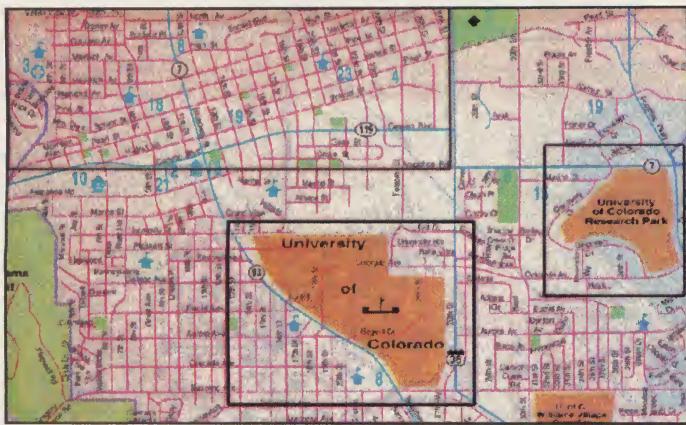
The documentation was a bit terse, in fact it just didn't cover the ground in some areas. Installation and configuration of Trumpet is a little less slick than most of the more commercial offerings we've seen. In some ways that's an advantage. Most of them we've tried didn't work, but the installation was sufficiently easy that we hadn't a clue where to start looking. But Trumpet takes configuration-itus a little far. By now we are accustomed to needing such esoterica as our IP address, the IP address of our domain name server, the IP address for the gateway machine, and obviously the comm port used by SLIP to dial out. But Maximum Transmission Unit Size (MTU)? The TCP/IP Receive Window Size (TCP RWIN), and the TCP Maximum Segment Size (TCP MSS)? We DON'T have a life, don't really want one, and we STILL don't care about this level of muckery.

Despite the configuration spasms you'll go through, Trumpet is one of the least problematic **WINSOCK.DLL** implementations you'll find with regards to working with the growing array of free and low cost shareware software available for Internet communications. It has become sufficiently ubiquitous to be considered the "norm" to compare WINSOCKs by. At **\$25**, it won't break anyone's piggy bank. The program is available from <ftp://ftp.trumpet.com.au> in the file **twsk20b.zip**. The company's ftp site can only handle 20 simultaneous sessions, and since the early November release of this upgrade, it has been pretty busy. Trumpet Software International Pty. Ltd., GPO Box 1649, Hobart, TAS Australia; Voice: **61-02-450220**; Fax: **61-02-450210**; Internet: tech-support@trumpet.com.au. ◆

WEBSITE EXPLOSION

With the advent of the new Netscape Mosaic, we took a close look at the World Wide Web with a new eye. It was alarming to note all the new Web servers online and how much they had progressed, until we took a closer look to find that most of them have actually gone online since October 1. The month of October 1994 would appear to mark a stunning explosion of WWW servers. Precisely how many is impossible to determine for two reasons. First, there is no central clearing house for the counting or tracking of these web servers, and second, it would appear the entire Internet has been taken over by a new math - quite different in all respects to

Catholic gradeschool arithmetic. This has reached comic proportions - apparently everyone on the planet is both using Mosaic and running a web server - at the same time. The methodology is a bit cute. You subdivide anything into micro parts, state it as a huge number with a qualifier, and then drop the qualifier kind of innocently. Web sites are a good example. Some of the sites are reporting as many as 10,000 "hits" per day. This implies some 10,000 individuals contacting the server. Actually, each reference to any page or image within a document is a hit - and we may actually be talking about 100 people here. Similarly, we are seeing wide reports of 10,000 web servers out there. This is erroneously derived from the reported 10,000 "pages" - also probably a wag. A page is a



Map of Boulder, CO found at
<http://www.cs.colorado.edu/cgi-bin/imagemap/bouldermap>

October 31, 1994 Volume 144 No. 18

NEW HOPE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In a grass-roots revolt, parents and teachers are seizing control of education

The weekly newsmagazine is provided in full text, with many of the stories supplemented by photographs, illustrations, charts and graphs. Hypertext links allow the reader to pursue different angles to stories, moving through

Article offered through Time Inc.'s Web Server

screenful of stuff, and any reasonable server might have anywhere from 10 to a hundred "pages." One web watcher tracked web servers up to about 700 by the beginning of October and gave up. We could easily imagine that it has doubled since then.

This new "Internet Math" reached its apogee with the totally preposterous announcement by Spyglass, Inc. that as of October 17th it has "licensed" 10 million copies of Enhanced NCSA Mosaic - an absurdity on the face of it. They barely acknowledged a site license from AT&T - which is corporate wide apparently. We're actually kind of pleased. It means our claim of **2.5 billion Boardwatch readers** is a little more defensible now that spewing little white decimalisms is apparently considered acceptable behavior. Booger.

We did find one interesting if slightly meaningless exercise in counting things. Oliver A. McBryan is a student of computer science at the Colorado State University in Boulder. He has devised a software program titled the **World Wide Web Worm** that starts at any WWW page and follows ALL the links to all other pages, and all other sites referenced. At each site referenced, it follows all THOSE pages. It takes weeks to run, and it has so far generated over 100,000 objects in a database that you can search. The address for the WWW Worm home page is:

<http://www.cs.colorado.edu/home/mcbryan/www.html>

In getting started on the Web, there are a couple of sites you might find useful. First, there are three newsgroups we find most interesting. **COMP.INFOSYSTEMS.WWW.MISC**, **COMP.INFOSYSTEMS.WWW.PROVIDERS**, and **COMP.INFOSYSTEMS.WWW.USERS**. There is a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document available and it is REALLY quite well done. Maintained by Peter Boutell, it is appropriately enough a web page

itself at <http://sunsite.unc.edu/boutell/faq/www>. We found it quite informative.

In getting your Mosaic operating, you will run into one of its strengths, and complexities. Mosaic provides an interface to these online services, but the actual display of everything except the most basic .GIF images, and in the case of Netscape, JPEG images, is left to other programs. Video clips are typically played by Microsoft's MPLAYER program, but there is an MPEGPLAYER, a graphics viewer titled LVIEW, and others to allow you to hear the sounds and see the graphics in the various formats used on the WWW. Mosaic allows you to affiliate any program with any file type so that when it comes across the port, Mosaic calls the program and feeds it the file so you can view or hear it. This extensibility is enormously powerful, but also one of the more esoteric configuration problems of Mosaic.

Paul Fawcett has set up a web page titled the **WWW Test Drive and Assault Course**. It presents various documents in every conceivable audio, video, and graphics format, allowing you to test your Mosaic setup to make sure you can see and hear all that is meant to be heard and seen. The system is at: <http://sashimi.wwa.com/~tenec/users/pault/demo/demo.html>.

One aspect of web servers we find totally fascinating is the ability to present "maps." These maps are simply GIF or JPEG graphics, but depending on where you click on the graphic, you are referenced to a different page and site. For example, <http://www.cs.colorado.edu/cgi-bin/imagemap/bouldermap> presents a simple map of the city of Boulder, Colorado. But you can click on different areas of the map to get a snow scene photographic of that site, the **National Institute of Science and Technology** site depicted on the map links you to the actual NIST home page.

The WebWorld site also provides an interesting graphical index to other sites at <http://sailfish.peregrine.com/ww/welcome.html>. This lets you descend to the earth's surface and navigate around various pyramids that represent different sites. The same machine actually also houses one of the most fascinating sites we've seen. <http://sailfish.peregrine.com/surf/surf.html>. This is a web site for surfers that provides buoy reports, tide reports, surf heights and temperatures, and surfcasts for those interested in riding the boards to the beach. We found the very current radar map and infrared images of the west coast fun and informative. Better, the site carries graphics of various waves, and even has a video clip taken every ten minutes of the surf at Carlsbad California beach. You can actually connect and see what the surf looked like in video a few minutes ago.

These remote eye web sites are a bit of a hoot. There is something about viewing an image taken just a few minutes and oh, half a planet

MESSAGE BOARDS

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, October 10, 1994

For more than a year now, TIME has helped create a cyberspace community on America Online, that's turned into one of the most compelling experiments in breaking down the walls between reader and editor. We'd like to keep that experiment going, on the Net. We can't guarantee that together we'll solve World Hunger and close the federal deficit but we can help you find some of the best online conversation in the world. But first, the tool you use to post has a virtue and a vice: simplicity. We'll improve it in the near future.

Introduce Yourself	Washington	Society	International	The Score
Science & Technology	Health & Medicine	New Media	Crime	Arts & Culture

You might start by introducing yourself, or by seeing who else hangs out here.

Message Board mimicks bulletin board functions

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory

Louvre <http://imstrail.enst.fr/pioch/louvre/>

Guided Tour What's New Questions Net Search Net Directory Newsgroups

Le WebLouvre, Paris

Bienvenue au WebLouvre!

The world-famous art museum is currently hosting three online exhibits: visit the French medieval demonstration, a collection of well-known paintings from famous artists, or tour around Paris, the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Elysees.

You are now at the WebLouvre Pyramide-guichet. Your WebLouvre pass is number 233407, showing the current count of visitors. Before you start touring the many rooms, please note that most documents have inline images. To view the full-sized versions, just follow the hyperlink (usually done by clicking on the embedded icon).

If you would like some background music for the visit, the WebLouvre Auditorium is open! The map cabinet is around... Welcome to Le WebLouvre in Paris! I wish you the most pleasant visit.

— Nicolas Pioch

All you ever wanted to know about Le WebLouvre

The Louvre Painting exhibition

Paris' WebLouvre!

Le WebLouvre, Paris

Impressionism (1860-1900)

Impressionism

- Bazille, Frédéric
- Caillebotte, Gustave
- Cassatt, Mary
- Cézanne, Paul
- Degas, Edgar
- Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi
- González, Eva
- Gustave Caillebotte
- Harnet, Edouard
- Manet, Édouard
- Monet, Claude
- Morisot, Berthe
- Pissarro, Camille
- Renoir, Pierre-Auguste

Impressionist painters found on WebLouvre!

away, that catches our fancy. One of the classics is the **Trojan Room Coffee Machine**. This is a coffeepot located in the Cambridge University computer science department in the United Kingdom. A photo of the coffee pot is taken each second 24 hours per day and stored for your viewing by web. In this way, you can check to see if there is coffee left before traveling all the way to the Trojan Room only to find it empty. <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/coffee>.

Publications are doing very well moving to the World Wide Web. We may have mentioned <http://www.boardwatch.com>. But there are many others. PC Magazine has <http://www.pcmag.ziff.com> and it's pretty interesting of course. The entire web concept rather flies in the face of their Ziff Interchange online service in some ways, and plays very neatly with it in others. CMP Publications has <http://www.cmp.com>. One of the publications there is the newly introduced Interactive Age. This is a controlled circulation or "requestor" publication purporting to cover the "information highway" but mostly covering on demand video and television. They do have a couple of neat tricks here though. They publish letters regarding stories appearing in the same issue as the letters, and they do this by publishing some of the stories on their web site FIRST and of course allowing letter responses electronically. The other interesting element is that like all requestor magazines, you must "qualify" as a free subscriber by filling out a fairly detailed questionnaire noting your position as sole purchasing agent for \$100 million in PC sales in order to qualify. Their application is a type of WWW form and was the most exotic we've encountered. Certain questions actually caused a Windows picklist to pop up on screen allowing us to scroll through the politically correct answers and pick from those presented. Very snazzy.

Absolutely one of the best World Wide Web sites we've seen anywhere is actually done by TIME Magazine. <http://www.timeinc.com>. You must see it. They have already done it right. First, the service has a full bevy of back issues with cover

graphics prominently displayed and a delightfully artistic presentation as well. Second, last Friday's issue is right up front and contains meaty stories from the publication itself. But beyond presenting TIME Magazine online in a very attractive fashion, they also have a very cunningly designed service that really shows off the web. For example, we found a series of little folders that you could click on and actually enter a bulletin board-like message area where a public discussion of that section of the magazine was going on. The service also contained an "Internet Gateway" with a pretty serious list of very cool web sites you could hop out to from there. Again, the use of graphic "maps" allowing you to click on various objects within a single image to navigate was very impressive. For a national news magazine, this site puts all WWW servers run by computer magazines to shame. We ASPIRE to having this good a web site for Boardwatch Magazine - someday - and this is rather more our beat.

In general, WWW is what print publications have been looking for for years in making the transition to online media. Now, not only can they port their photographs and graphics and fonts and text arrangement to a suitable medium, but they can even tie audio and video clips to stories - with almost no effort. And ultimately a lot of the online community is about the written word. When people who can actually write start using this technology, it's clearly going to get better. The TIME, Inc site could serve as a model in many ways.

Images really do play a role, and they are getting better at presenting them. Graphic images are fun and informative. But they eat bandwidth. Two trends seem to offer promise. First, while GIF images were ALL of it just a few months ago, we're seeing a solid move to JPEG compressed images. These can be much smaller than GIF images and essentially look as good. Second, we're seeing much better presentation. The services are learning to present a very small thumbnail image about the size of a postage stamp. You can kind of get the idea that way. Then, if you want to see more detail, just click on the thumbnail and it downloads and displays the BIG version of the picture. This allows you to zoom in as necessary, without having to download every image in the collection in its full size. A good example of this is the **Library of Congress** web site at <http://www.lcweb.loc.gov>. We found an entire series of civil war era photos on this service that were just fascinating. But all appear as



Louvre collections on the Web

little thumbnails and you just click on them to see the larger size. Similarly, the **Louvre Museum** in Paris has entire collections of paintings digitized and presented in this fashion. You can access paintings by type and painter. The Impressionist section contains dozens of paintings for each of dozens of painters - Claude Monet for example. This is virtually an online treasure. Try <http://mistral.enst.fr/~pioch/louvre>. And you'll even find a little bio and photo of PIOCH, the guy who put together this fascinating web site.

The question has to come up, if this Mosaic/WWW gig catches on (trust me on this one), what happens to the commercial online services? This is very unclear at this point. But they are scrambling to get on the train in any event. CompuServe is up at <http://www.compuserve.com> with a thoroughly underwhelming effort. Prodigy is actually doing somewhat better with a service that plays to their strong news service hand at <http://www.astranet.com>. Delphi has been VERY aggressive all along in playing the Internet card anyway, but they are now affiliated with the Fox Television Network. They have announced a site at <http://www.delphi.com/FX/FXTOP.html> that claims to be the first web site for a television network. Nothing yet from AOL or Genie that we've seen.

By far most all of the web sites have no specific access or subscription fees at this point. Rather, the focus seems to be on what are termed "store fronts" where you can order things. Incredibly, Pizza Hut has a web site at <http://www.pizzahut.com>. A pilot program, it allows people in Santa Cruz California to order pizzas online for local delivery. A company called PC Travel has an online service allowing you to check airline fares and schedules on the Apollo system and they have a web page at <http://www.nando.net/pctravel.html>. You can actually order airline tickets on MC/Visa and have them delivered by FedEx. But the page is pretty limp - basically a single screen with a telnet link to a very ugly, but useful online database service in ASCII text (ugh, retch, blechh). At Condom Country, you can even order prophylactics online - <http://www.ag.com/Condom/Country>.

We did find the occasionally useful service as well. The **Global Network Navigator/Koblas Currency Converter** provides a list of dozens of currencies world wide in a list. If you click on any particular currency, ALL other currencies are recalculated and redisplayed in terms of the currency you selected - and it's updated daily. http://www.ora.com/cgi-bin/ora/currency?United_States will get you started in terms of U.S. dollars.

We're not the only one to fall for the web in a big way. Chris Babb is a 32 year old Senior Systems Engineer for Control Masters, Inc in Downers Grove, Illinois where he writes software to control factories and machinery. But by night, he works with Aquila BBS. Chris has been involved in computer communication since 1981 and got involved with Aquila in 1988. He's also a bit of a musician and has played in numerous bands over the last 17 years as a bass player playing everything from hard rock & roll to newage to alternative. In the past few months, he's gone a little web crazy reporting he spends as much as seven hours per night every night surfing the web. We talked him into coughing some of his finds:

STARTING POINT PAGES

Creative Internet

<http://www.galcit.caltech.edu/~ta/creative.html>

Interactive world of television, the ultimate list of links (updatable by visitors), Polls, the web wide world of music and the creative internets hottest links. Also, advertise your own WWW pages on the free-for-all!

CUI W3 Catalog

<http://cui-www.unige.ch/w3catalog>

Searchable database of over 10,000 WWW sites. Word patterns or Perl regular expressions searches supported. Provides a hot link list to all pages matching your search parameters.

CyberSight - The information hotline for all online hipsters

<http://cybersight.com/cgi-bin/cs/s?main.gmml>

The 'What You Want List' - polls, polls & more polls. Let your views be known! Interactive Hangman, Adventures Of The Unknown, The Philogistician' Corner, Story Time and much more.

EINet Galaxy

<http://galaxy.einet/galaxy.html>

Another searchable database of WWW sites. A guide to world wide information & services. Offers public as well as commercial information and services provided by EINet customers and affiliates. All information is organized by topic. Hotlinks to topics from Arts & Humanities to Engineering & Technology to Medicine to Social Sciences are available along with the ability to perform online searches for specific items. The EINet WinWeb and MacWeb WWW clients are also available for immediate downloading.

Mark's List Of Internet Interactivity

<http://www.eia.brad.ac.uk/mark/fave-inter.html>

A useful (or at least entertaining) list of interactive hardware available on the Internet. See realtime views from Web connected cameras, find how much coke and candy are in the machines at various spots around the net, find out if someone's hottub is functioning correctly, remotely control machines and robots and say hello to someones pet. These gems and a host of other interactive fun await you. This is one of my favorite pages on the net.

Cruciform

<http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~werdna/>

An interesting page chock full of the 'darker' side of the net. Follow the links to Statrek: The Next Generation, Horror, Fear & the Grotesque In Art, an interactive page full of bible contradictions, music, Phrack Magazine and links to all kinds of other cool and interesting sites.

Yahoo - A Guide To WWW

<http://akebono.stanford.edu/yahoo/>

THIS is the definitive list of some of the BEST WWW sites on the net. From here, you can get almost anywhere and everywhere. There are close to 20,000 pages listed here and the list is searchable by keyword. Yahoo is my recommendation as THE place for anyone new to WWW to start from.

WebWorld

<http://sailfish.peregrine.com/ww/welcome.html>

This is one of the more interesting and unique sites I have had the fortune to find. This is basically a virtual window on the map of 'WebWorld.' A click on the World Map to beam down to a more detailed section of the world. Clicking on any of the pyramids shown on the map will take you to another, more detailed map or a WWW page. Be warned! Keep this one to yourself. I have a friend who found it and I couldn't get him away from my computer! The only drawback is for those with slow Internet connections due to the amount of graphic files reloaded. Don't miss this one!



Radar image of the day from NASA's Imaging Radar Home Page

COMMA Hotlist Database

http://www.cm.ct.ac.uk:80/htbin/AndrewW/Hotlist/hot_list_search.csh

Another searchable database of WWW sites. You can search by page title, subject or contributor. This shows off some of the excellent capabilities of searching the net.

GNN - Global Network Navigator

<http://gnn.com/gnn.html>

Navigate Internet resources using GNN's interactive navigational guides. You'll find useful navigational guides, reference resources and informative, entertaining special interest publications. GNN also provides NetNews, a weekly publication that reports on the news of the internet, with weekly feature articles that focus on Internet trends and special events along with Sports, Weather and Comix Pages. You are required to subscribe in order to access GNN's features. The subscription is free.

The WWW Virtual Library

<http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/DataSources/bySubject/Overview.html>

This is a list of many different liberal arts and science pages. The ability to display the full list, a summary or an index along with the ability to display by service type or other subject catalogue of network information is available. By sending mail to maintainers of the list, you can add pointers to the list. Information on putting your own web page up is also provided. Still more links to other virtual libraries are also included.

The Awesome List

<http://www.clark.net/pub/journalism/awesome.html>

As the author of this list says: "Gathered here, from one trainer's viewpoint, are the glory and grandeur of the Internet, the sine qua non of Cyberspace, the main characters in the evolving drama...I (John S. Makulowich) tried to produce a hypertext document that journalists and trainers could use easily. Also I hoped to assist those of us asked - usually on short notice - to highlight the value, breadth and depth of the Internet..." Basically, this is a whole pile of some of the neater items found on the web that can help give others the overall value of the information available. Check it out.

GoldSite Europe

<http://www.cityscape.co.uk/>

Probably Europe's busiest commercial Web Server, with over half a million accesses per month. Contains information on 798 Internet connected companies and organizations worldwide, and offers a range of services from HTML design, advertising and server rental.

UWI's Web Page

<http://kzsu.stanford.edu/uwi.html>

The Underworld Industries' Cultural Playground. This is an interesting site with an excellent looking home page. There are links to several online zines, the odd-art archive that you can be part of, the "tour under Ann Arbor," !MONDO MONDO! the amateur video show that wants to show your work to the world, Off-World (Blade Runner Stuff), the UWI shopping mall and a link to the hot and cool spots on the web amongst other things.

Index to Multimedia Information Sources

<http://cui-www.unige.ch/OSG/MultimediaInfo/index.html>

Just as it says, a fairly large list of links to all kinds of multimedia information sites.

PING datascape

<http://www.artcom.de/ping/mapper>

The is another interesting site along the lines of WebWorld. Ping is a visual datascape in the Internet consisting of a map interface, an eye-agent and the datascape. A click on an icon in the map will show you text, images, sounds, movies or an object. You can add your own by clicking on the map. Worth a looksee.

URL Square

<http://www.ntt.jp/SQUARE/>

This is a directory of directories of various kinds of Internet

Resources. The list is split between sites located in Japan and World Wide sites. There is an excellent map of all WWW sites located in Japan. All you have to do is click and you're there. There is also a list of Gopher servers and WWW mailing lists and documents available. If you're fluent in Japanese, there are also searchable indexes available to you.

World Wide Web Servers

<http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/DataSources/WWW/Geographical.html>

Starting Point. This is a HUGE list of registered WWW servers listed alphabetically by continent, country and state.

World Wide Yellow Pages (TM)

<http://www.yellow.com/cgi-bin/SearchWWYP>

Just as the name says. Browse by headings, name or location. Or search by the same.

Information Inovation

<http://www.euro.net/innovation/WelcomeHP.html>

The premier guide to the World Wide Web. This is touted as the place where professionals come to use the Internet to find and use information about resources on the Internet, modern management techniques issues and technology, and the international financial industry.

Database support group at Indiana University

<http://tempest.ucs.indiana.edu/>

Starting Point Lists of Gopher sites, WWW sites, FTP sites & News-groups devoted to sharing information about databases.

BTG Hot List

<http://www.btg.com/httdir/btghot.html>

A hotlist list of WWW search tools, government sites and computing links.

SPACE PAGES

The NASA/JPL Imaging Radar Home Page

<http://southport.jpl.nasa.gov/>

This is one of my favorite space sites. Here you will find some of the latest imaging radar data available along with all kinds of other space pictures and interesting information.

International Space Station Alpha

http://issa-www.jsc.nasa.gov/ss/SpaceStation_homepage.html

Online bulletin board to broadcast and communicate overviews of the space station program and major milestones to the international community. Also an internal BBS of information related to program development such as high level technical data, development schedules and other pertinent program information.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

http://hypatia.gsfc.nasa.gov/NASA_homepage.html

The starting point for NASA information. Links are available to all NASA sites throughout the country along with the NASA strategic plan, strategies, policies, public affairs and educational resources.

Spacehab Homepage

<http://hvsun4.mdc.com:1025/SPACEHAB/SPACEHAB.html>

Spacehab is the world's only commercially developed manned space system. All kinds of current information on Spacehab is available here.

MUSIC PAGES

Internet Underground Music Archive

http://www.iuma.com/IUMA/index_graphic.html

Billed as the net's first hi-fi music archive and mentioned in Rolling Stone Magazine. This is a really cool place to visit if you're a music fan. IUMA is the home for all those starving musicians looking for a place to post their wares. There are many different types of musicians located here. They are listed by artist, location, label and genre with

samples of their music in both long and short formats. Be aware, this is a graphics intensive site and some of the music samples are upwards of 1 meg. It is well worth checking out.

bmi.com

<http://metaverse.com/bmi/index.html>

BMI is a music performing rights organization representing more than 100,000 songwriters and composers and 50,000 music publishers with a repertoire of over 2,500,000 works. This page is their interface with cyberspace. They have developed this WWW site as a public resource where music enthusiasts of all types can access valuable information. Also online is BMI MusicWorld Magazine.

Peter Gabriel

<http://www.acns.nwu.edu/gabriel/>

Pink Floyd

<http://humper.student.princeton.edu:80/floyd/>

Rush

<http://www.cerf.net/~jlang/rushfan.html>

These are just a few of the "Fan" pages put together by fans of these groups. These sites contain bios of the members, discographies, lyrics, tour dates and a host of other necessary information for groupies. There are also many other links to other fan pages and ftp sites for many other groups.

MIDI Home Page

<http://www.eeb.ele.tue.nl/midi/index.html>

Both beginners and experienced users should find something of benefit in this page. You can get the basic intro to making MIDI music or the complete MIDI specifications. You can also access MIDI sequences, the Roland SoundCanvas Users Group and links to many other MIDI related WWW pages and newsgroups.

Cakewalk Home Page

<http://www.isvr.soton.ac.uk/People/ccb/Cakewalk/>

This is the home page for the Cakewalk series of MIDI sequencers by Twelve Tone Systems, Inc. Here, you can access demos of their products, CAL scripts, patches and other product support options. You can also sign up for the Cakewalk users mailing list.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGES

The Figure Skating Home Page

<http://www.cs.yale.edu/HTML/YALE/CS/HyPlans/loosemore-sandra/skate.html>

Here you can keep up with the latest in figure skating, view pictures of you're favorite skaters and see the Nancy Kerrigan MPEG Movie. There are also links to other skating related material.

The Groom Lake Desert Rat & The Paraniod News

http://alfred1.u.washington.edu:8080/~roland/rat/desert_rat_index.html

In case you don't know, Groom Lake is that place in the desert where the government says there is nothing even though there is

documented proof that activity is taking place at this base. This WWW site is devoted to explaining and exposing the truth behind it all. You can view all of the Groom Lake Desert Rat publications here along with the Paranoid News.

LEGO Information

<http://legowww.homepages.com/>

I still love LEGO building blocks. Here is a site devoted to them. There are pictures of home-built constructions, LEGO robots, games you can play with LEGO, projects, ideas, history and just about anything else having to do with those cute little blocks.

LSwDL Web Server (David Letterman)

<http://bingen.cs.csbsju.edu/letterman.html>

The Seinfeld Index Page

<http://www.ifi.uio.no/~rubens/seinfeld/index.html>

Melrose Place Update Menu

<http://saul2.u.washington.edu:8080/melrose.html>

Star Wars

<http://stwing.resnet.upenn.edu:8001/~ruspini/starwars.html>

Strange Interactions Intro

<http://amanda.physics.wisc.edu:80/show.html>

Billed as "The online art exhibit." This is a site full of some really interesting art work. There are Oil & Acrylics paintings on wood, lithographs, etchings and woodcuts available for viewing. There are also links to other art related WWW sites.

Star Trek - Generations

<http://generations.viacom.com>

These are just a few of the WWW sites devoted to your favorite Movies & TV shows. They feature everything from stills of the stars to the original scripts along with links to related WWW & FTP sites.

Kaleidoscope Home Page

<http://kspace.com/>

"Where Independant Artists Sell Their Work To The World." Contains a nice "graphic wheel" with links to take you to things like the tool shop, the art studio, the spotlight, the studio and a couple of other things.

Zarf's list of interactive games on the web

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu:8001/afs/cs.cmu.edu/user/zarf/www/games.html>

Links to interactive games and toys on the WWW. The games features multi-player, user vs. computer, adventure and anything else that sounds like a game. The toys are all kinds of things you can fool around with and that don't necessarily have a real goal. Cool stuff. Be sure to play with this site!

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT PAGES

BiancaTroll productions

<http://bianca.com/btp/>

Contains bianca's SMUT Shack, Chicago's Emporium and bianca's OFFICIAL Lollapalooza GuideBook. The only place I have

visited is the SMUT Shack. This is a very neat and funny stop along the information superhighway. Sign bianca's guestbook and leave your favorite recipe for koolaid, write some graffiti on her bathroom walls, read some graphic "dump" stories while relieving yourself, take a look at her bookshelves or go to the basement and take a look at her spiderwebs. This is definitely an "adults only" site.

The Playboy Homepage

<http://www.playboy.com>

"The electronic catalog for Internet." Here, you can subscribe to Playboy Magazine or order all kinds of Playboy products. No pictures here though!

Dan's Gallery Of The Grotesque

http://coos.dartmouth.edu/~djb/GotG/GotG_top.html

Anyone familiar with alt.binaries.tasteless will know Dan. This is a most unique site devoted to the exposure to the masses of "unique" pictures of malformed, mutilated and extremely dead people. This has to be seen to be believed. WARNING! This is not for the faint of heart. Do not eat before viewing. To prevent nightmares, this site should not be viewed by children and certainly not by pregnant women.

Welcome to Condom Country

<http://www.ag.com/Condom/Country>

Online ordering of condoms and other sexual goodies!

MISC SITES

Federal Communications Commission

Web Site

<http://www.fcc.com>

Dr. Roger David Carasso

<http://ftp.netcom.com/pub/carasso/www/home.html>

Kai's Power Tips and Tricks for Photoshop

<http://the-tech.mit.edu/KPT/KPT.html>

Railroad-related Internet Resources

<http://www-cse.ucsd.edu/users/bowdidge/railroad/rail-home.html>

Seismicity Report

<http://smaug.ucr.edu/Quakes/LATEST/quake.html>

Weather Sources

<http://escher.cs.ucdavis.edu:1024/weather.html>

Global Network Navigator Home Page

<http://nearnet.gnn.com/gnn/gnn.html>

IBM Internet Connection - Home

<http://www.ibm.net/>

Spencer Gifts Home Page

<http://www.btg.com/spencer/>

U. S. Bureau of the Census Home Page

<http://www.census.gov> ♦

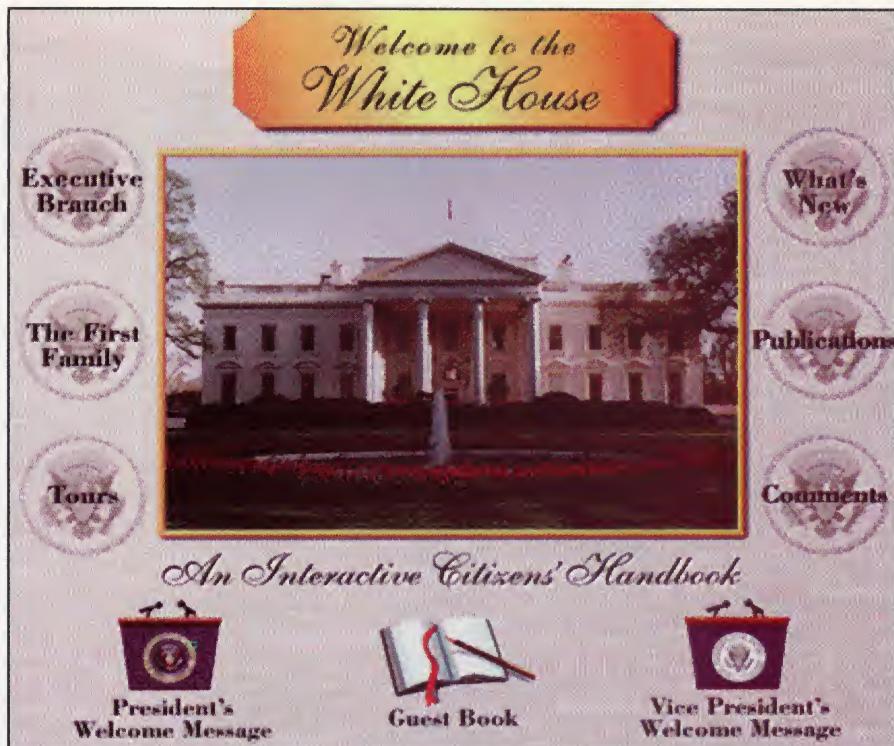
WHITE HOUSE WEB SITE

In an effort to make government information more readily accessible to citizens across the country, Vice President Gore, joined by Associate Director for Technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Lionel S. (Skip) Johns and world-renowned artist Peter Max, on October 20 unveiled the first interactive, multimedia, electronic citizens' handbook on the White House, including detailed information about Cabinet-level and independent agencies, and information about the First Family and the White House.

"This first-of-its-kind program is an electronic roadmap to the federal government — a place on the information superhighway where people can get needed information about government services and where they can provide immediate feedback to the President," Vice President Gore said.

"Welcome to the White House: An Interactive Citizens' Handbook" provides a single point of access to all electronic government information on the Internet, a vast electronic computer network used by people in more than 150 countries. Examples of accessible material demonstrated include information about the President and Vice President and their families, a virtual tour of the White House, detailed information about Cabinet-level and independent agencies, a subject-searchable index of federal information, and a map of Washington, D.C.

By using free software such as Mosaic, developed by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, a person can access this information through a multimedia interface which includes photographs, audio, and "hotlinks" in the text that take the user to related areas of



A good example of image mapping on the White House Home Page

interest. It is also accessible by individuals who are hearing or sight-impaired through the use of Lynx, special software developed by the University of Kansas.

The Web server includes photos of the President, the First Family, and documents such as the Report on the National Information Infrastructure 1993/1994, a bit of a scorecard on Clinton Administration Activities in support of the original proposal. It included links to other Federal servers including a new Small Business Administration web server. But the most interesting area we found was

the Gore's Favorite Cartoons area - which included a series of political cartoons lampooning the Vice President, with a brief background on each. These are postage stamp sized images, but you can click on them to zoom in on the larger version of any that interest. The White House has a Web server, and Vice President Gore has a bit of a sense of humor as well.

"Welcome to the White House" can be accessed at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

The initial screen is a delightful design including a photo of the White House surrounded by various presidential-looking seals. Each of these seals can be individually clicked to reach various other sections of the service. Recorded sound files provide welcoming messages from the President and Vice President.

Given the boost the entire Internet and the Information Superhighway concept received when Vice President Gore got behind it a bit, we have to believe the addition of a White House web server will signal most of institutional America to get a web site up or be left out of the information age. While that message may cause pandemonium in some ways, the example set on this server is a very good one. The design of <http://www.whitehouse.gov> was simply superb in all respects. ♦

Vice President Al Gore

Al Gore's Cartoon Gallery

Over the years, Al Gore's caricature has appeared in numerous local and national cartoon strips. Vice President Al Gore has amassed a large personal collection of cartoons characterizing his public life. Below are a few examples from his personal collection.



This cartoon with Vice President Al Gore on crutches has the President complimenting the Vice President. Vice President Al Gore ruptured his achilles tendon playing basketball on August 20, 1994. (Reproduced with the permission of Dave Granlund)



This cartoon with the bureaucracy depicted as a dinosaur was crafted after Vice President Gore presented the National Performance Review: Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less (NPR) to President

Editorial cartoons collected by Al Gore



TECHNOLOGY FRONT

by Jim Thompson
Western News Service

THE LAPTOP USERS' SURVIVAL GUIDE

As a working journalist for more than 20 years, my assignments have taken me around the world in pursuit of a story. From Australia to Turkey and from airport tarmacs to ships and cheap hotel rooms, I have had to cope with situations and environments that were often far from ideal. Although I may bear a few scars from the battles, I have also emerged with a good sense of what is needed to survive on the road.

Travel is hard enough. When you add the need to regularly check your BBS or office computer system, the problems often becomes too much even for the seasoned traveler. As a journalist, my computer is not only my constant companion, but also my lifeline and meal ticket. I cannot afford to be without it or to be in a situation where it doesn't work or where I can't communicate with the outside world. Ever since I got my first portable unit in 1980, the computer has been my constant travel companion. I don't go anywhere without it — not across the country or even across town. In my business, you never know when a story may break. When it does, I have to be prepared.

This month, I have compiled a list of what I have found to be the most essential tips and tricks for surviving with your laptop on the road. I hope that the suggestions will help you out of a jam or, even better, prevent you from experiencing a disaster in the future.

THE GOOD SCOUT

Like the Boy Scouts, when traveling with a computer, your motto should be "BE PREPARED!" As Murphy says, "anything that can go wrong — will!"

You should begin by marking all of your equipment. This includes your case, your computer, your power supply, your printer, even your cables. On any metal surfaces, the best is to invest in an engraving device that lets you write your name, social security

number and perhaps your phone number on the equipment. On plastic pieces, about all you can do is tape your business card to the device.

A business card is easily removed if the equipment is stolen, but in most cases you will simply leave it behind in your hotel room or the place where you were working. The card will alert the hotel or your co-workers on how they can reach you.

I also add a few lines to my AUTOEXEC.BAT file which say:

```
ECHO This computer is the property of
ECHO James Thompson
ECHO if found please call: 213/256-3526
ECHO A REWARD will be offered for its return!!!
```

I use a Toshiba portable which allows me to configure the available memory as a "hard" RAM disk (NOTE: "hard" RAM means that anything stored in this area will not be lost when the power is turned off). If my hard driver were ever to fail (let's hope it never does), I could load just about everything I need onto the Hard Ram Disk and then store any files I create onto a floppy. I have done this in the past and it works great. Since everything is in memory, it works



Thompson's bare necessities for laptop users

extremely fast and is very gentle on the battery.

Exactly how much you can store depends on the amount of memory available. I have 8-MB so I can easily store just about everything I would ever need. But even with a limited amount of storage space, you would be surprised how much you can store with a little advance thought. On a machine with 1-MB of memory, I was able to store the following:

1. Full Word Processor (XyWrite III+ with all needed printer drivers, keyboard files and special programs). Another favorite of mine is Qedit. I like this one because it is very small and can be configured to use the same keystrokes as the word processor I use every day. Emulations for XyWrite, Word Perfect, Norton Editor, etc. are available, but you can also do your own customizing.
2. Communication Program (I use an old one that will load as a TSR. This allows me to work in the word processor and send my files without having to shut anything down.)
3. Full set of TSR programs that include a Calculator, Notepad, Calendar, ASCII Table, Phone Directory and Time Planner. The original SideKick is good, but there are others that may be more to your liking.
4. Emergency Phone Numbers. This includes important work numbers, the service numbers for the laptop and modem manufacturers. Also the numbers and passwords for any databases (MCI Mail, CompuServe, etc.) or BBS that I may need for communicating and sending e-mail.
5. Basic DOS and utilities that include: Unerase, Unformat, PKunzip, PKzip, Bigcurs (gives me a bigger cursor which is easier to see in low light), a clock that shows me the time around the world, Format, Autoexec.bat, Config.sys, Win.ini and a backup program.

Even with all this loaded, I still had the full 640K of memory available for running the programs. I have written a batch file that runs from the diskette. It automatically copies everything I want to the hard RAM area and loads all the

programs. Since everything is loaded into memory, it works fast and there is no need to shut down one program to run another. It's not Windows and it's not the best in the world but it works without problems.

One additional piece of advice on the subject of diskettes, be sure that all your backup diskettes are bootable. If you have lost your hard drive, you cannot access any programs on the diskettes unless you load DOS.

EMERGENCY DISKETTES

In the diskette department I have the following:

1. **DOS DISK** This contains all the DOS files I can get on one diskette. They won't all fit, but some (like Dosshell, Dblspace, Qbasic, etc.) are really not important in an emergency.
2. **EMERGENCY PROGRAM DISK** This contains all the programs noted above in items 1-5, plus anything else I am working on or feel might be important at the time. The diskette will hold 1.4-MB. You might as well use it all. If the programs you select do not all fit on one disk, you can use two, but if you can do it, I strongly suggest the single diskette. Remember, all you want to do is get past the emergency, not set up a permanent system. Also the single floppy is good if you have to borrow someone else's machine for a short time.
3. **SPARE DISKS** I keep three or four formatted, bootable diskettes around just for storage. It is also a good idea to label them.

I suggest you separate your diskettes into a small zippered bag or holder. This way you can easily get to them when you pass through airport security or when you need to access the data on them. I also make two backup copies on tape of all my essential data in the office and carry one tape with me just in case something were to happen to the one at the office.

EMERGENCY BAG 'O TRICKS

Here is a full list of the emergency equipment I carry when traveling. If I am not going too far, I may not bring everything, but unless weight and space

is a real problem, I try to take everything all the time.

1. ESSENTIAL CORDS AND CONNECTORS

- A. MODULAR PHONE CORDS** I carry two shorter ones and one very long one. The short ones are normally all I need, but there are times when the long one (at least 20 feet) has been the best thing in my bag.

There have been several occasions when the only phone in a hotel room that worked was in the bathroom. Sitting on the john and trying to type is not my favorite way of passing time. Also, the moisture in the bathroom after someone takes a shower is not good for a computer.

If nothing else, the long cord will let you get over to the desk to work instead of being tied to the nightstand next to the bed. I have never been able to figure out why most hotels don't provide telephone access on the desk or table that seems to always be in the room, but they usually don't. Bring your own cord, you will be happy you did.

- B. MODULAR-TO-SPADE LUG CORD** This has a standard RJ-11 modular phone plug at one end and four wires with spade lugs at the other. This is used with the next item.

- C. ALLIGATOR CLIPS** Two short cords with alligator clips (called Crocodile clips in Australia) on each end. By attaching the clips to the spade lugs on the other cord you should be able to connect to most telephones.

2. ESSENTIAL TOOLS

- A. SCREWDRIVER** Get one with a phillips head on one end and a straight blade on the other. If you can't find one, get two screwdrivers.

- B. FLASHLIGHT** I can't tell you how many times this has come in handy. When you need to find the phone jack under a bed in a dark hotel room, or the power switch on your machine during a blackout, a flashlight is indispensable.

- C. KNIFE** The small Swiss Army variety that contains two blades, file, screwdriver and scissors is the best.

- D. PLIERS** Get the small needle-nose variety. I found a neat tool that

includes pliers, two knife blades, a phillips screwdriver, two straight blade screwdrivers, can and bottle openers and a small file all built into a nice foldable unit. You can get Swiss army knives like this also. The one I have cost me only **\$9.95** through a mail order company. It even comes with its own carry case which goes on the belt. I like this one because if I lose it, I won't feel too bad.

3. NOTEBOOK POWER SUPPLY

This may seem obvious, but do yourself a favor and double check that you have it before you leave. We all have our horror stories. Mine involves forgetting to bring along the power supply for my notebook computer.

I went to Australia on assignment. It was not until after I arrived that I realized I had forgotten the power supply. What followed was a nightmare. The first thing I did was to call the office and ask them to send the unit to me. Because of the time difference (some 19 hours) this involved about ten phone calls and probably **\$50** in charges.

I did finally make contact and felt much better when I was told that the unit was on the way. But the good feeling didn't last long. The first problem came when I arrived at the airport to fly from Sydney to Melbourne. The battery was completely exhausted in the machine. Since I could not turn it on, airport security would not allow me to take it on the plane! After about an hour of negotiation, and my constant assurance that the computer did not contain a bomb, they finally agreed to wrap it in special lead sheeting and put it in the cargo hold. The security officer said he has never done this before and only because I had legitimate press identification did he even consider it.

Everyday I called Federal Express looking for my power supply. Everyday, I was told the same thing, "don't go anywhere, it should arrive sometime today." About all this did was to ruin any fun I had planned on having.

In the meantime, I started calling computer stores trying to buy a power supply. Since the machine was new, no one had any in stock. I did find one

store that had a similar unit. They said they could not sell me a power supply, but they let me come in every day (about a 45 minute drive) to recharge the battery in my computer. This at least allowed me to get the minimum amount of work done. Of course, I had to always remember to keep enough of a charge so I could get through airport security.

Finally, the day before my big assignment in Brisbane, the package from Federal Express arrived. I almost kissed the delivery man. I opened the package and to my surprise found that it was the wrong power supply!

Here I was, the day before the big assignment and no computer. I knew I had only two choices, either buy a new machine or somehow get my hands on a power supply. I went back to the computer store where I had been charging my batteries and began begging. After a long lunch and several beers, the owner finally agreed to sell the power supply to me. It cost me **\$225** but, it was still cheaper than a new machine.

I tell this story to illustrate that even in cosmopolitan areas, finding what you need, when you need it, can often be impossible.

The experience also taught me some valuable lessons. First, always BE PREPARED. Second, double check everything — even the most obvious. Third, bring backups.

Since my Australian experience, I now always carry an extra power supply cable. While in Australia, I tried to make my own cable. Finding a 12-volt power supply/converter was easy. What I could not find was a connector that was even remotely similar to the one needed to fit into my computer. After looking at three different Radio Shack stores and several local electronics stores, I finally gave up.

As soon as I returned to the states, the first thing I did was to make up a cable with the proper computer connector on one end and just bare wires on the other. With this, I should be able to buy a power supply and attach the wire with the connector. I have not needed to yet, but I have it handy, just in case. I also learned that if you want to get the most life from your batteries, you

should remove them when not in use. This is true for the rechargeable batteries and for the throw-away alkaline batteries. All equipment draws some power, even when switched off. By removing the batteries when not in use, you can get up to 20% more life from them.

4. EXTRA BATTERIES Always have at least one extra set of batteries for anything you carry that requires them.

5. AC ADAPTER Most devices that require batteries will also take an AC adapter (battery eliminator). The problem is that they seem to all require a slightly different type. Either they have a slightly different voltage requirement or need a different adapter.

I have one that is changeable. It can be set for 3-12 volts, has five different connectors and a polarity switch. This works with just about any small appliance. Best of all it means that I don't have to carry half-a-dozen such devices.

You should be able to find a similar adapter in any electronics store.

Just be sure you have the polarity switch set correctly. If you reverse it, you can destroy the equipment you are trying to power.

6. EXTENSION CORD AND ADAPTER Always make sure you have a good AC extension cord with multiple outlets. You should also have a three-prong to two-prong plug adapter.

7. EXTRA MODEM Things break. It is a good bet that sooner or later the modem you are using will stop working. I have also found that there are times when the internal modem in my Toshiba will not connect with the remote system I am calling. Don't ask me why this happens. All I know is that occasionally it does.

I always carry a spare external modem. The one I have is 2400-bps for data and 9600-bps for fax. It also has an attached connector cable. This has gotten me out of many situations where the faster one simply would not work.

8. LAPLINK CABLE & SOFTWARE I never leave without a laplink cable and the needed software for transfer-

ring files. I carry the one that connects via the parallel port. I have found computers that do not have a serial port, but have never found one without a parallel port.

9. KONNEX CONNECTOR I use the Model 112. This device from Unlimited Systems Corporation, Inc. lets you easily connect your computer modem or fax machine to digital, PBX, multi-line or hotel telephone system.

The KONNEX Model 112, which is about the size of a package of cigarettes, connects to the handset jack on the telephone. It's simple to use, just unplug the handset and plug in the Model 112. The handset is plugged into the KONNEX which also provides a standard RJ-11 jack for your modem and auto switching between voice and data.

A four-position slide switch compensates for volume differences encountered with various telephone and PBX systems. A 9-volt battery powers the unit for up to 30 hours.

10. ACOUSTIC COUPLER This is not the most high-tech of equipment, but it can be worth more than gold when you need it. I use the Road Warrior Tele-TravelKit International from Computer Products Plus.

This kit consists of the greatest collection of gadgets and connectors I have ever seen. Inside the neat zippered case is a treasure trove of "wish-you-had it" items that will make it possible to connect your laptop to even the most exotic telephone line.

The included Telecoupler II high speed modem (acoustic) coupler attaches to most any telephone handset with a velcro strap. The attached cable plugs into your modem or fax machine allowing for transfer speeds of up to 14,400 bps. A built-in level switch allows the Telecoupler II to adapt to varying line conditions.

One tip on using this or any other acoustic coupler. Instead of setting the telephone handset and attached coupler down on the desk or table, allow it to dangle from the end of the table. With the coupler/handset resting on the top of a desk, the best throughput I could get was a hesitant 2400-bps. With the unit dangling from

the cord off the end of the desk, I had no problem getting a clear 9600-bps.

In addition to the acoustic coupler, The Tele-TravelKit International includes a printer cable, modular line cord, and power plug adapters for the U.S. to: Great Britain, Africa, Hong Kong, Europe, Middle East, South America and Australia. You will also find telephone adapters for France, German "N" and "F" types, Holland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

11. AC ADAPTER PLUGS See the list for the correct connector for the area to which you are traveling.

TRAVEL TIPS

1. FAX IT I rarely carry a printer any more. When I do need something printed, I just send the material to the hotel fax.

2. CALL WAITING When using someone else's phone, be sure that call waiting has been disabled. To

cancel this feature just add *70 (sometimes #70) to the dialing string in your communications program.

3. AIRLINE CLUB If you do a lot of flying, you might want to consider joining an airline traveler's club. For a fee of **\$75-\$200** per year you will have access to modular phone plugs, AC-power and, in some cases, even a computer at most major airports. They will even give you free drinks and snacks!

One final word of advice — don't panic. Equipment does eventually break and things do sometimes go wrong. Just work through the suggestions provided here and hope for the best. If you lose the use of your machine or modem, you can always buy a new modem and rent/borrow a computer for a short period. For the price of a lunch, you might be able to persuade the owner of the local computer store to let you use a machine for a few hours.

With this information and the charts that are provided, you should be able to use your modem in just about any circumstance.

CONTACTS:

TELE-TRAVELKIT INTERNATIONAL

Computer Products plus
16351 Gothard Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Tel: (800) 274-4277
(714) 847-1799
COST: \$279.95

KONNEX CONNECTOR MODEL 112

Unlimited Systems Corporation, Inc.
8586 Miramar Place
San Diego, CA 92121
Tel: (619) 622-1400
COST: \$149 (includes 9-volt battery and AC-Adapter)

LAPLINK

Travelling Software, Inc.
18702 N. Creek Pky.
Bothell, WA 98011
Tel: (206) 483-8088

QEDIT

Semware
4343 Shallowford Road
Suite C-3
Marietta, GA 30062
Tel: (404) 641-9002
(404) 641-8968 (BBS)

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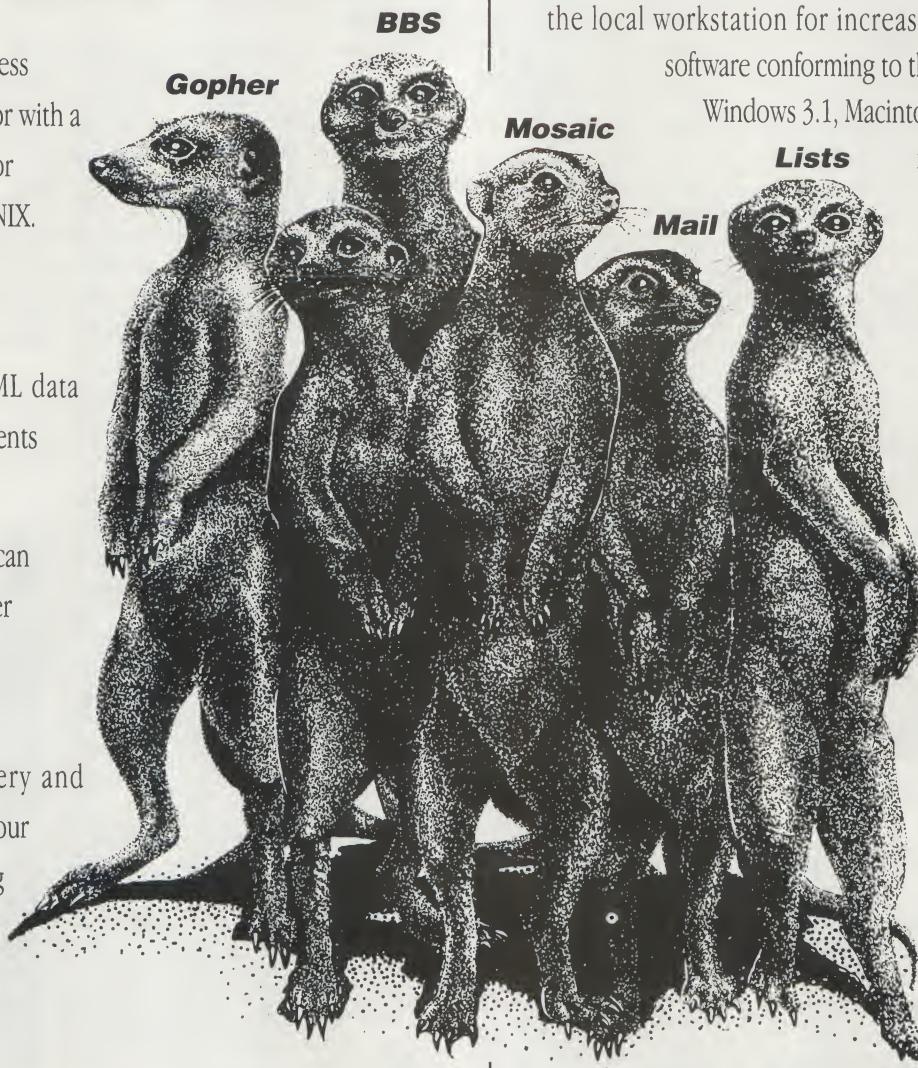
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HOW TO CONNECT TO THE TELEPHONE LINE

Here are the steps you should take in order to connect your modem to a phone line. They are listed in order of difficulty. Just work through the list until you get the connection.

1. Plug into the dataport on the telephone. This is becoming a common item, especially in hotels that cater to the business traveler.

2. Unplug the telephone and plug the phone cord into the connector on your modem or computer. Often, hotels will cut off the locking pin on the RJ-11 modular phone jack as a security measure. If that is the case, use a knife blade or screwdriver to release the plug.

3. If the cord is attached to the phone (not modular) try disconnecting the cord from the wall plug and connecting your own cord from the modem to the wall outlet. If your modem has two plugs, you can plug the phone into the open plug so it can be used as normal. You can also insert a modular duplex or "Y" connector into the wall jack then plug your modem and the phone into the connector.

4. If there is a wall phone in the bathroom, it may slide off (check to see if there is a locking device on the side of the phone). If the phone does come off the wall, you should find a modular plug. This is where that long telephone extension cord will come in handy.

5. If there is no modular plug available, you can open the telephone block (with your screwdriver) and connect directly to the line using the alligator clips. Just attach one end of the clips to the red and green wires on your spade lug cord and the other end to the red and green wires from coming from the wall at the telephone wiring block. Of course, the modular plug on the cord goes into the jack on your modem. You should be able to dial using your modem as normal.

If you cannot dial with the modem, you can dial using the telephone pad and then issue a command for your modem to connect with the receiving system.

One way to dial with the telephone instrument and still get a data connection is to dial the number after connecting your modem.

Here are the steps:

A. Connect your modem to the telephone.

B. In place of the telephone number enter: ATX0D (You can also try ATX3DT — both seem to work for me). This tells the modem not to wait for a dial tone and to connect with the answering modem. Also, if you do not get a connection it may be that your modem wants to dial a number. You can add a single number after the

ATX3DT, this will be sufficient to complete the dialing process.

C. When you hear the remote system answer, issue the command for your modem to dial (usually this means pressing the ENTER key).

D. If your modem is looking for a dial tone and you cannot reprogram your modem dial command, you can dial the number with the modem first, then immediately dial the host number on the keypad of your telephone.

E. Once connected, be sure to leave the telephone handset off the cradle until you have completed your call.

6. There are times when you cannot access the phone wires. If that is the case, you can unscrew the mouthpiece of the phone, remove the flat, disk microphone and attach the alligator clips to the two terminals that are projecting. It doesn't matter which goes where. This connection provides transmission in both directions, so don't worry just because it is called the mouthpiece. Again, your modem should be able to dial this way as normal. Remember what we are dealing with here is sound. As long as the phone hears the correct tones (whether they are generated by the telephone instrument itself or are sent via the speaker) it will dial the number.

7. Use a handset coupler like the Konnex Model 112.

8. Use an acoustic coupler.

9. Use the business center if the hotel has one. If they don't, and it is an emergency, you might be able to persuade the hotel staff to let you use their phone. If you are unable to connect to the office phones, ask if they will temporarily unplug their fax machine. Any line that works with a fax will work with a modem. You might have to be persistent. Often the people working during the day will say no (they will likely be busy and not have time for experimenting) ask the night shift (they usually have more time for such things and they might even like the company).

10. If you have not been able to connect after trying all these possibilities, you are out of luck. You can print your results (using your own portable printer or one that you connected to at the hotel) and fax the information to your office using the hotel fax. Another possibility is to prepare all the material and then send it later when you have access to another telephone system.



TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

PROBLEM

Modem does not dial

SOLUTION

- ◆ Check to insure that power is being sent to the modem. If the modem is internal, you will need to check the CMOS setup or run the setup program that came with the machine. If it is an external modem check the batteries.
- ◆ Check the modem setup string.
- ◆ Check the speed setting. If you have a 2400-bps modem and you have set your communications program for 14,400 bps the modem will probably not dial.
- ◆ Check all connections then re-set your computer. With most systems, re-setting means turning the machine off and then on. With portables that have an auto resume feature, you will have to press the small recessed, re-set switch on the back of the machine.
- ◆ Check to see that your communications program is set for the same serial port to which your modem is connected. For internal modems this is normally COM 2.

Connection drops out during transmission

- ◆ Reduce the transmission (speed) setting.
- ◆ Check the flow control (Hardware: RTS/CTS, Software:XON/XOFF).
- ◆ Call back. High speed modems are sensitive to line noise. A noisy phone line will cause communication errors.
- ◆ Check your serial port chip set. Older serial ports use the 16450 chip set which will only transfer data at 9600-bps. It may not be able to keep pace with your new 14,400-bps modem. Also, older machines (286 or 386-SX) often cannot keep up with the data flow of high speed modems.

Characters are garbled after connection

- ◆ Check Communications Parameters [The most common setting is: 8-Data Bits, No Parity, 1-Stop Bit (8-N-1)].
- ◆ Check to make sure the phone cable from the modem to the wall plug is secure and in good shape. Change the cable if necessary.
- ◆ Make sure the modem is not near or on the same electrical circuit as an electric motor, color television or other source of electrical noise. Such noise can spill into the modem.
- ◆ Make sure all other telephone instruments on the same line are on-hook. Also, too many phones on one line can put too heavy of a load on the line and cause noise.
- ◆ Check your terminal emulation.

The computer stops during start-up

- ◆ Check to make sure AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files are not corrupted, if they are replace them with your backup copy.
- ◆ If you see the message "Bad or missing command interpreter" the problem is that you have a problem with the file COMMAND.COM. Replace it from your backup.

The mouse has no effect or you have lost your mouse pointer

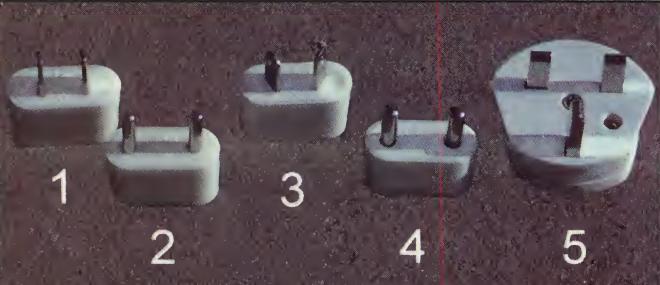
- ◆ The mouse driver has not been installed. Install it manually, re-boot your computer, or re-run AUTOEXEC.BAT file by typing autoexec at the "C:\\" prompt.

Mouse or trackball is "sticky"

- ◆ Clean the ball assembly with a clean cloth and re-assemble.

Battery doesn't hold a charge

- ◆ Ni-Cad batteries will develop a memory over a period of time and, consequently may not hold a charge. The fix is to fully discharge the battery, then charge it fully. Do this several times. If this does not fix the problem, the battery has probably lived its life. You will need to replace it.



GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLTAGE AND ELECTRICAL OUTLET PLUG

COUNTRY	VOLTAGE 110	VOLTAGE 220	PLUG
Afghanistan	•	•	2
Algeria	•	•	1,2,5
Angola	•	•	2
Antigua	•	•	4,5
Argentina @	•	•	4,5
Aruba	•	•	1
Australia	•	•	3
Azores	•	•	1,2
Bahamas	•	•	1
Bahrain	•	•	4,5
Bangladesh	•	•	2
Barbados	•	•	1
Belgium	•	•	1,2
Belize	•	•	1
Bermuda	•	•	1
Bolivia	•	•	1,2
Botswana	•	•	4,5
Brazil @	•	•	1,2,3,4,5
Bulgaria	•	•	2
Burkina Faso	•	•	2
Burma	•	•	4,5
Burundi	•	•	2
Cameroon	•	•	1,2
Canada	•	•	1
Central African Rep.	•	•	2
Chad	•	•	2
Chile	•	•	2,3,4
China	•	•	1
Columbia	•	•	1
Costa Rica	•	•	1
Cyprus	•	•	4,5
Former Czechoslovakia	•	•	2
Denmark	•	•	2
Dominican Republic	•	•	1
Ecuador	•	•	1
Egypt	•	•	2
El Salvador	•	•	1
Ethiopia	•	•	2
Fiji	•	•	3
Finland	•	•	2
France	•	•	2
French Guiana	•	•	2
Gambia	•	•	4,5
Germany	•	•	2
Ghana	•	•	2,4,5
Gibraltar	•	•	4,5
Greece	•	•	2
Greenland	•	•	2
Grenada	•	•	2,4,5
Guatemala	•	•	1
Guinea	•	•	2
Guyana	•	•	1,2,4,5
Haiti	•	•	1
Honduras	•	•	1
Hong Kong	•	•	4,5
Hungary	•	•	2
Iceland	•	•	2
India @	•	•	2,4,5
Indonesia	•	•	1,2,4

COUNTRY	VOLTAGE 110	VOLTAGE 220	PLUG
Iran		•	2
Iraq		•	2
Ireland		•	4,5
Italy	•	•	2
Ivory Coast		•	2
Jamaica	•	•	1
Japan	•	•	1
Jordan		•	2
Kenya		•	4,5
Korea		•	1,2
Kuwait		•	2,4,5
Laos		•	2
Lebanon		•	2
Liberia	•	•	1
Libya	•	•	2
Luxembourg	•	•	2
Macao	•	•	2
Madeira @	•	•	2
Majorca		•	2
Malawi		•	5
Malaysia		•	5
Malta		•	4,5
Martinique		•	2
Mexico	•	•	1
Nepal		•	2,4
Netherlands		•	2
Netherlands Antilles	•	•	1,2,4,5
New Caledonia		•	3
New Zealand		•	3
Nicaragua	•	•	1
Niger		•	2
Nigeria	•	•	4,5
Norway	•	•	2
Oman	•	•	4,5
Pakistan	•	•	2
Panama	•	•	1
Paraguay	•	•	2
Peru	•	•	1,2
Philippines	•	•	1,2
Poland		•	2
Portugal		•	2
Puerto Rico	•	•	1
Qatar		•	4,5
Romania		•	2
St. Lucia		•	4,5
Saudi Arabia		•	1,2,3,4,5
Senegal	•	•	2
Seychelles		•	4,5
Singapore		•	4,5
South Africa @	•	•	4,5
Spain	•	•	1,2
Sri Lanka		•	4
Sudan		•	2
Surinam	•	•	4,5
Swaziland		•	2
Sweden		•	2
Switzerland		•	2
Syria		•	2
Tahiti	•	•	1
Taiwan	•	•	1
Tanzania		•	4,5
Thailand		•	1,2
Trinidad	•	•	1,2,4,5
Tunisia	•	•	2
Turkey		•	2
Turks and Caicos Is	•	•	1
Uganda		•	5
United Kingdom		•	4,5
Uruguay		•	4,5
U.S.A.	•	•	1
Former U.S.S.R.		•	2
U.S. Virgin Is	•	•	1
Venezuela	•	•	1
Vietnam	•	•	1,2
Yemen		•	1,2
Former Yugoslavia		•	2
Zaire		•	2
Zambia		•	4,5
Zimbabwe		•	4,5

@ Country uses DC in some areas. 220 volts = 100-160 volts AC 220 volts = 200-260 volts

BASIC AT COMMANDS

COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
AT	Attention, modem, a command follows.
ATA	Answer the phone.
ATDP	Dial using pulse dialing.
ATDT	Dial using tone dialing.
ATH	Hang up the phone.
A/	Repeat last command. This command does not begin with "AT" or end with <Enter>.
ATSO=n	Answer after n rings.
ATSO=0	Disable auto-answer.
ATMO	Turn off modem speaker (M1, speaker on until online; M2, speaker always on; M3, speaker on until online and off while dialing).
ATZ	Reset the modem.
ATX4	Wait for dial tone (modem recognizes busy signal).
ATX0D	Force connection, when manually dialing, after remote modem answers.
ATX3DT	Try this command if the one above does not work during manual dialing.
&Zn=N	Store phone number x in memory position n,(comma) Pause 2 seconds.
+++	Escape sequence; interrupts modem when online. Type "+++" quickly and wait for modem to respond "OK."

DIALING OVER A CELLULAR PHONE CONNECTION:

1. Set your modem to a low speed (probably 1200 or 2400-bps). You might get a faster connection, but drop-outs are common. It may be more costly to keep dialing back than to just do the job at a low speed.
2. Issue the command: ATS10=12. This will instruct the modem to wait 1,200 milliseconds before declaring a host carrier
3. If you keep losing carrier (getting disconnected) increase the ATS10=12 to a higher number (ATS10=14 for example).

MODEM MANUFACTURERS

(*Normal,MNP5, and V.42 bis connections)

HAYES

Technical Support: (404)441-1617, 8:00-5:30 M-F (eastern time)

Type: Optima 144+FAX144(PCMCIA), Optima 144+FAX144 Pocket Edition (external, four 1.5V batteries), Optima 24+FAX96 (PCMCIA)

String Setup: AT&F&C1&D2*

MEGAHERTZ

Technical Support: (800)527-8677, 8:00-5:00 M-(mountain time)

Type: P296FMV (external, one 9V battery), XJ2144(PCMCIA), CC4144(PCMCIA)

String Setup: Normal: AT&F&C1&D2&Q&K&S1
W2S95=W%C\G&W&K3
MNP5: AT&F&C1&D2&Q5&K3&S1&W<Enter>
ATS46=138S48=128W2S954=18&W
V.42 bis: AT&F&C1&D2&Q5&K3&S1W2S95=18&W

U.S. ROBOTICS INC.

Technical Support: (708)982-5151, 8:00-6:00 M-F (central time)

Type: WorldPort Dual Standard 14.4 (PCMCIA), Worldport 14.4 (external, one 9V battery; or PCMCIA)

String Setup: NonCellular:
AT&F&A3&B1&H1&R2X7S7=90 or
AT&F1* Cellular: AT&F3*

MICROCOM INC.

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String Setup: Normal: AT&F/N0
MNP5: AT&F/N2%C1
V.42 bis: AT&F/N2%C3

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ATI Technologies	19200 ETC-E	\$279	\$189	905-764-9404	905-882-2600	905-882-2620
Cardinal Technologies	MVP192E 19.2k V.32terbo	\$229	\$119	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Computer Peripherals	Viva 9624e V.32	\$349	\$249	805-499-9646	805-499-5751	805-498-8306
Digicom Systems, Inc	Scout Plus Terbo 19.2k	\$269	\$157	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems, Inc	Scout Plus Terbo for Mac	\$289	\$162	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems, Inc	288 VFCi 28.8 V.FC	\$279	\$133	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 288 V.FC + Fax	\$579	\$288	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Microcom	DeskPorte FAST 28.8	\$499	\$249	617-255-1125	617-551-1000	617-551-1988
Microcom	DeskPorte FAST ES 28.8	\$299	\$149	617-255-1125	617-551-1000	617-551-1988
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA	\$699	\$350	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA	\$749	\$375	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PC288MT V.FC	\$349	\$160	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7200
Supra Corporation	SupraFax 28.8 V.FC	\$299	\$169	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
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Zoom Telephonics	VFX 24k External V.FC/V.32bis	\$229	\$130	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
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ZyXEL	U-1496RE/16.8 Rackmount	\$499	\$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E+/19.2k V.32bis	\$499	\$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	RS-1602E Rack Chassis	\$799	\$499	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705

The above quoted prices are for purchases by qualified Sysops only. Public purchases are retail prices, and are not available through Boardwatch Magazine.



Phyllis Phlegar is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and also holds a private pilot's license. She is a freelance announcer and her work can be heard on Business Radio Network, National Public Radio and the Armed Forces Radio Network.

Phyllis is currently working on a book to be published by Addison Wesley Publishing Company.

Write to Phyllis, at XHBG67A on Prodigy, P. Phlegar on GEnie, Phlegar on Delphi, P Phlegar on AOL, 71562,407 on Compuserve or at phyllis@cris.com on the Internet.

My best girlfriend Sue from North Carolina just spent a few days with me. She came to the area for a convention, but set aside time for us. She spent some of that time wagging her finger, accusing me of being the one who got her turned on to cyberspace. It's true, I did...I pushed and argued and pleaded with Sue to get online so we could stay in touch easily and cheaply.

That was several years ago, and since then, she's found a whole world of interesting (and sometimes very weird) people to socialize with cyberly. Some of these people, Sue says, have become life-long friends of hers. This may be the case with some of the other people she met at the convention, whom she'd only known online. One of them remarked that in the '90s, no one has the kind of time it takes to have such a large group of friends, and being online socially makes it easier to juggle your schedule.

It's mind boggling to think of all the other people you still don't know, whose lives have been chugging along, whether you are aware of them or not. It's not as if their lives begin when we discover them, is it? Cyberspace is the perfect foil for finding friends and learning life histories. Of course, there are a few people to be avoided too, as you know.

PEOPLE ONLINE

PEOPLE ONLINE by Phyllis Phlegar

IF A TREE FALLS ON YOUR COMPUTER WILL IT MAKE NOISE IF YOU'RE NOT THERE TO HEAR IT?

It doesn't take being very techie, or a long time cyberspace surfer to make close, life-long friends online. One of the first people I spoke to the first few times I was online was Irene, and that was over three years ago.

Irene and I spoke occasionally on a knitting machine forum, and after about six months, we realized we were both in the same state, lo' the same county! It wasn't even a toll call, so soon we're were chatting by phone and finally we met in person. Now Irene is close friends with both me and my husband. In fact, I just saw her the other day, and she remarked to me that she met a woman online on a sewing board and they became such close friends that Irene flew out to Washington state to spend four days with her.

I'd like the opportunity to do that with a cyber friend of mine in Washington state named Pat. Pat and I met on a forum for people who like to work with polymer clays. This "polyclay" group, (found on GEnie's Needle/Arts/RT, category 20), often had swaps involving beads, and Pat's were among the most beautiful. I always felt that I was shortchanging her with my pitiful attempts. Once Pat and I swapped Christmas ornaments, and when I expected her to send me something out of polyclay, she sent instead a 1 inch teddy bear made of ultrasuede! It was beautiful.

I was way behind, in my mind, on the swaps when it came to Pat! I kept trying, but her beads and polyclay ornaments kept one-upping me...but modest Pat didn't do it on purpose, she never realized it. One time I offered to trade her a few porcelain gaming tokens from Thailand for two of her polyclay ornaments. Now, I thought, we'll be even. When I opened the package she'd sent me SIX! Then, she was apologetic as she said "I hope you like these." Oh no, would I ever catch up?

Finally, she saw a posting of mine where I spoke of my latest craft diversion, making teddy bears. Could she trade me for one of them? You bet! Here was my chance, I thought, to get even, and after making several



Phyllis Phlegar's family- from left to right
Mom, sister Fran, Dad, cousin Joan



Cyberfriend and fellow knitting hobbyist, Irene

bears, I picked the largest, and off it went. She really liked the teddy, and I felt like I'd finally sent her something decent, something worthy of all those great little gifts from her. So right now we're even...but that could change any day. She's making me a teddy bear as we speak!

Making friends is great but this big ol' world o' cyberspace with all these people doesn't exist for anyone who isn't online...it's that tree in the woods that fell but they didn't hear it. A lot of us may take cyberspace for granted but to many people being on, for example, the Internet isn't the international news you might consider it to be. To the uninitiated non-onliner, it means nothing.

But once you're online, it's a real eye opener. Recently, a friend of my Mother's gave my Mom her Internet address. All by herself, (and boy was I proud!) my Mom figured out how to send something via the Internet from Prodigy. She was so excited, and believe me, my Mother doesn't even know what the Internet is...but she already knew this was good.

I've managed to get several cousins online too, and at long last, my sister Fran. Once Fran figured out what she was doing (after several long phone calls to me) she became quite enamored of the whole online experience. In over 27 years of living apart, my sister and I had very few chances for communication, because we lived far apart. Now we write to each other regularly through e-mail, and aside from saving a ton of money on phone bills, we are becoming very close

friends...after all these years. She says "I love this thing, just in time...it's quite a change, I've gone from no letters to multiple letters on a daily basis, and not itty bitty letters, these are long drawn out tomes where I kvetch endlessly about all manner of things and you don't have to read it if you are not in the mood. Isn't it wonderful?"

Recently, Fran broke her arm, which means big trouble, because she's an aerobics instructor. She was understandably upset and said "Let's hear it for the information super highway or whatever this is we're on. But seriously folks, this is a very incredibly cool thing

and very therapeutic all at once..I am quite sure I would've totally lost it by now without this wonderful machine <computer>."

Do you know the thrill of getting someone online, especially a family member, who turns to you (electronically or otherwise) and suddenly, you know they understand why you spend so much time on the computer?

Picture it: little 8-year-old girl, half her sister's size and two years her junior...big sister and friends are dissin' her like crazy, won't play Barbies with her, they just want her to go away. How things have happily changed. Fran says to me NOW: "I haven't come up with an adjective that accurately describes all the things I think about being able to communicate this way. I believe I have shown self control - I've waited several HOURS before replying." And, I might add, I now have her Barbie, too.

If you're in a position to get your Mom, Dad, sisters and/or brothers introduced to cyberspace, do it. It's great watching them figure it all out, after only having news reports and magazine articles (and you) to describe what is going on. You can hear the cogs turning in my sister's brain as she writes: "What I like about this is that I picture you guys picturing us guys doing what we are writing about...which is probably the rationale behind all those chat lines. DUH."

I think Fran heard the tree when it hit her computer! ♦

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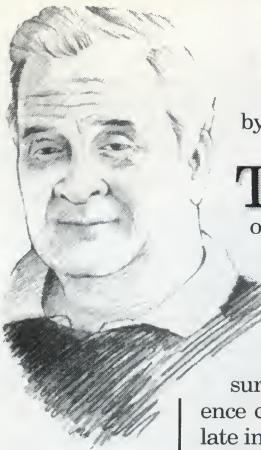
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STRUCTURE





FRENZY ON THE INTERNET

by Gordon Cook

Things are moving faster than ever. We're just back from our second three week trip to Russia of the year. The purpose of this one? To give a paper complete with policy recommendations at a three day NATO-sponsored invitation-only workshop designed to coordinate policy and economic development directions for the Internet in Russia. The paper was such a surprising success that we were asked by the conference chair on the Russian side for permission to translate into Russian and disseminate there the 29,000 word report on the Russian Internet that we began to serialize in the COOK Report in July. We also found that a Telnet session from the town of Yaroslavl on the Volga River to Moscow to Chicago operated very well. In the meantime here are summaries of four stories that are unfolding in parallel and are well worth watching by those who need to evaluate the Internet as a market place and business opportunity.

- Frenzy on the Internet
- FTP by E-Mail
 - NetBoy
 - net.imperative

WOLFF EXPLAINS HIS POLICIES

First Steve Wolff, whose policies over the past decade at the National Science Foundation were responsible first for the building of much of the American Internet and then for commercializing much of the same, is leaving the National Science Foundation by the end of the year.

In a nearly four hour one-on-one August 15 interview with the COOK Report at the University of Pennsylvania Steve Wolff announced a significant reversal of NSF policy on commercial use of the newly funded very high speed backbone service (vBNS) awarded earlier this year to MCI. After saying in public in December of 1993 and again in February of this year that the service would be available for commercial use, he told the COOK Report: "The vBNS will not have commercial use. There will be a mesh of PVCs (Permanent Virtual Circuits) among all five supercomputer centers and MCI doesn't have any right unilaterally to place traffic on those PVCs."

Wolff appears to have laid to rest the earlier and misguided policy of granting the provider of a government-paid-for backbone commercial use of government paid for facilities. He also disavowed what we believe was his earlier contention that he had Congressional authority via the Boucher amendment to continue to do so. We congratulate Wolff and NSF for their decision. We had been critical of NSF precisely because it seemed to us that they refused to learn from the 1990-1992 ANS controversies. It seems now that learning is taking place. For this we are glad. While commercial traffic on a 155 megabit per second backbone designed for use by supercomputer centers would appear to have little to do with the BBS community, we think the move is significant because it signals a limit to what looked like an aggressive intent on the part of the National Science Foundation to tilt the commercial playing field on behalf of those companies with which it was doing business.

Wolff was recently quoted as saying that he had been designing some of his policies to "co-opt the telephone companies into multi billion dollar Internet business." We asked him some follow-up questions about this and carried away from the meeting a better appreciation of how he views the Internet and his role therein.

He said: "Might telcos become dominant? Of course there is such a danger. Be careful when you begin to dance with the elephants. But remember if they employ illegal means of increasing market share, we have laws against anti-competitive behavior. I doubt that they would do something questionable and walk away unchallenged. On the other hand if we draw them in now we have a chance of influencing them. Until they understand the desire for communication between users that motivated the CB radio fad and the Internet style and provide it, they cannot do anything that will put the Internet out of business. But if the telcos do understand it, they can use their muscle to get it to more people more cheaply. While they are doing this they will also develop a common ground to discuss what these services should be."

These views make us uneasy. For it seems to us that he allows the big industry, high tech, high bandwidth, high cost view of the Internet to dominate his policy making process. To some the Congressionally mandated High Performance Computing and Communications (PL 102-194) view of the Internet seems to dictate an approach that only our largest corporations with their economic muscle can handle. We distrust this point of view for two reasons. One - it ignores low cost lower tech ways that are extremely cost effective in their ability to act on a broad scale as enabling technologies both for the provision of Internet service and the uses that ordinary citizens can make of it. Two - by potentially putting the Internet and NII into the hands of a few giant corporations, it may well smother the diversity that makes the net so useful to such a broad range of people.

To sum up, Wolff made it very clear that he has an academic and research constituency to serve and that, when you get right down to the nitty gritty, the Network Access Points (NAPs) are there to see that this community maintains its connectivity in the absence of a single NSF funded backbone. If this shapes the entire net in such a way that some of its grass roots users question, there is not much that Wolff, given his constituency, can be expected to do about it. All of which from our editorial point of view calls into question the appropriateness of having NSF design significant parts of the architecture of the Internet for the rest of us. But as Wolff correctly pointed out, without major lobbying in Congress nothing is likely to happen that will shift this current direction.

THE CIX SAGA CONTINUES

The following excerpts from an August Sprint memo make it clear that Sprint - at that point - had completely written the CIX off.

"As the new internet architecture unfolds, Sprint expects this recent CIX (to impose filters on November 1) decision to have less impact. Major Internet service providers (e.g. Sprint, ANS, Alternet, MCI, etc.) are expected to execute bi-lateral agreements that allow our

customers to exchange traffic between our networks. Sprint expects the bilateral agreement process will eventually replace the multi lateral CIX agreement (perhaps by the end of 1994). However until further notice Sprintlink resellers should be informed of the CIX requirement and encouraged to join the CIX."

Earlier Sprint says "Sprint was the only CIX Board member to vote against the filtering proposal. The motivation for the proposal, Sprint believes, is to limit competition by increasing the cost of entering the commercial Internet service business."

It would appear to us that someone is encouraging the Sprint sales force to tell Sprint customers that they should spend \$10,000 on something likely to become in Sprint's opinion, meaningless and worthless as early as the end of this year. There is at minimum here an ethical question to which we believe Sprint owes the community an answer.

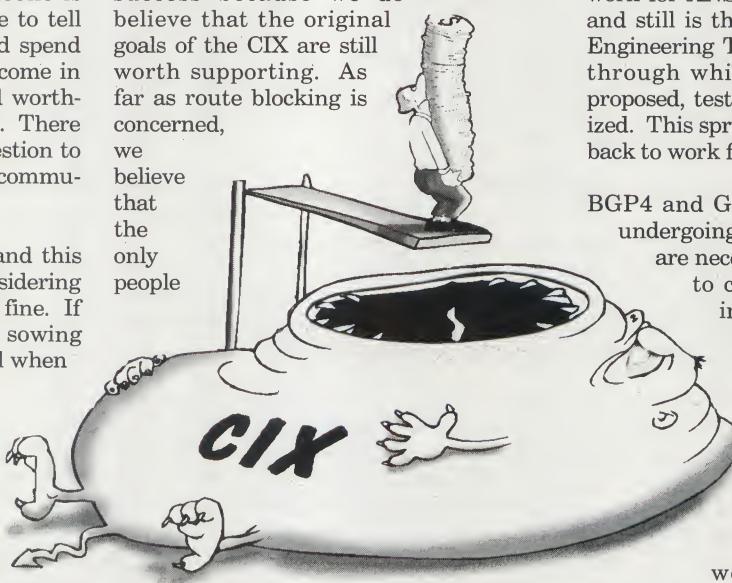
Is Sprint having its sales force hand this memo out to all ISPs who are considering Sprint as a Service provider? If so fine. If not it would seem that Sprint is sowing the grounds for considerable ill will when it becomes clear that with one hand Sprint was urging them to spend \$10,000, while with the other Sprint was acting to help destroy the organization on whose board it sits. Is destroy too harsh a word? Certainly Sprint, at a minimum, is saying that it thinks the CIX is superfluous and that by creating bi-lateral end runs around the CIX it is helping to make it so. You decide.

Meanwhile as of mid October it is still not known whether the CIX will try to impose filters on November 1. We have however found out two significant things. First, in early October the CIX board met again and elected John Rugo of NEARnet and BBN as its Chair. (Rugo is the only board member - apart from Kowack who is brand new - who hadn't become publicly embroiled in the summer's controversies.) Rugo is now in the process trying to get the remainder of the Board to agree to major reforms. We understand that he has let it be known that he will walk if he can't get the rest of the board to listen to reason. If he walks the CIX will fold.

Should the CIX fold? When we left for Russia on September 15, we thought that it should indeed. Now we have a somewhat different opinion. On October 11 we interviewed the former executive director,

Bill Washburn for well over two hours. We will publish the results in a future issue. Washburn presents a very plausible explanation of the events of mid July to mid September as something other than an evil conspiracy in restraint of trade designed to keep small providers out of the market. To Washburn, a technology-founded arrogance on the part of UUNET and PSI combined with a complete lack of any awareness of the need to build political consensus to create the unseemly mess. In the absence of any definitive proof to the contrary we are prepared to believe him. Of course the other half of the equation of fixing the CIX will be the reforms extracted by Rugo. We wish him success because we do believe that the original goals of the CIX are still worth supporting. As far as route blocking is concerned,

we believe that the only people



who should be concerned are non CIX member resellers of CIX member nets with direct attachments only to the CIX router and to nowhere else in the Internet.

CAN YOU SPELL MCINET?

With its win of the vBNS (very High Speed Backbone Service) MCI has largely separated itself from its earlier relationship with ANS. Having provisioned the NSFnet backbone since 1987 it will now adjust some routers and circuits and, presto, emerge with its own national backbone attached to all the NAPs. A large number of regional networks including the CoREN group will use MCInet for transit to the NAPs.

In the current feeding frenzy top notch technical talent will be almost as important as the megabucks that a provider can throw at solutions. The talent vanguard is definitely migrating to MCI. When,

during the first week of January, Vint Cerf announced that he was leaving Bob Kahn's Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI) to return to MCI as Senior Vice President of Data Network Architecture, we viewed this as a sure indication that MCI would be winning the vBNS. Kahn and Cerf were the original creators of the TCP part of TCP/IP back in 1974. They are today probably among the top five gurus on this subject in the world. During his earlier stint with MCI Cerf was also the implementer of MCI Mail.

Phil Gross had worked for Cerf at CNRI before Al Weis hired him away to come work for ANS in 1991. Gross, was then, and still is the chairman of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the body through which network protocols are proposed, tested and eventually standardized. This spring Gross left ANS and went back to work for Cerf, this time at MCI.

BGP4 and GateD are critical protocols undergoing new implementations that are necessary to enable the Internet to cope with its exponentially increasing numbers of hosts and networks. Without them routers would lose their ability to direct packets successfully to their destinations. Dennis Ferguson, a Canadian and apparently the premier guru in this critical area, came to work for ANS last year.

Ferguson has left ANS to go to work for MCI. We heard he will have his hands full for a "transient anomaly" in GateD that makes the backbone very very touchy when entering a configuration window. We don't have enough independently verifiable information to do a separate story on this issue. However we do have very explicit data on how a GateD incompatibility with the way Cisco routers handle bogus routes caused some serious disruption on Sprintlink at the end of August.

Of course if MCI is moving out from under ANS to run its own backbone it needs its own Network Operations Center (NOC). In this instance, given MCI's corporate headquarters location in the Virginia suburbs of Washington DC, the most likely candidate is SURAnet, the giant regional network that encompasses the entire southeastern United States. SURAnet's NOC is in College Park Maryland about 45 minutes drive around the beltway from MCI. Jim Waters who used to run the NOC as a SURAnet employee now runs it as an MCI employee. People

are speculating that an MCI acquisition of SURAnet is not far off.

As of mid October MCI has an operational 45 megabit per second national ATM "cloud." CoREN has not become a separate corporation or service provider as originally envisioned. Instead it is now a 45 Mgbs service of MCI. BBN Network Services, owner of BARRnet and NEARnet, has completed its acceptance testing of the MCI CoREN service. (CoREN is positioned by MCI as a solution for the NSF's request for inter-regional connectivity for NSF sponsored mid-level or regional networks.)

MCI has the top flight talent we have just described focused on its \$10 million a year cooperative agreement with the NSF designed to bring a vBNS service online to connect five super computer centers to each other and to the rest of the network. Sources tell us that while a national MCI TCP/IP service that will give every BBS an opportunity to connect is being rolled out, MCI seems to lack the technical depth to

ensure that the roll out will be smooth. While the implementation of the NAPs is progressing, MCI is lagging behind ANS and Sprint in connecting there. We would be surprised if a public roll out of low speed MCInet service occurred before January 1, 1995. In the meantime Net-99 is up and operational as a new national backbone provider.

AND NOW MY FELLOW AMERICANS WE BRING YOU YOUR NII

The most visible part of National Information Infrastructure planning has been going on within NTIA under the guidance of Larry Irving at the Commerce Department. A very invisible, but we expect far more significant, move is afoot and led by Bob Kahn at CNRI headquarters. This is the Cross Industry Working Group - 75 major corporations (computer, telephone, cable, wireless, software and semiconductor companies). While the group is the brain child of Bob Kahn, Charles Brownstein, a political deal maker, moved in

from the NSF in the spring of last year to become Executive Director. The group held its first meeting during the December 1992 transition to the Clinton administration with Gore operative Mike Nelson as a prominent organizer. A telco executive involved in its planning told us early this summer to expect a press conference soon. While the group has done quite a good job of avoiding any public scrutiny, we expect to see a splashy unveiling before long of what these corporate chieftains think NII should look like. As an exercise in top down planning in a technology that has been quite resistant to this treatment we await the results with considerable skepticism.

[Gordon Cook, Editor Publisher: **COOK Report** on Internet -> NREN431 Greenway Ave, Ewing, NJ 08618 USANEW E-mail: cook@mcs.com Subscriptions: \$500 corporate site license; \$175 edu., non-profit & small corp. \$85 Individual.] ♦

FTP BY E-MAIL

by Bob Rankin



If your only access to the Internet is via e-mail, you don't have to miss out on all the fun! Maybe you've heard of FTP, Gopher, WAIS, and the World Wide Web but thought they were out of your reach because your BBS or online service does not provide those tools. Not so! You can use simple e-mail commands to do all of this and much more on the Internet. And even if you do have full Internet access, using e-mail services can save you time and money.

If you can send a note to an Internet address, you're in the game. Let's look now at using FTP by e-mail to tap into the vast storehouse of files available on the global Internet. FTP stands for "file transfer protocol," and is a means of accessing files that are stored on remote computer systems. In Internet lingo, these remote computers are called "sites." Files at FTP sites are typically stored in a tree-like set of directories, (or nested folders for Mac fans), each of which pertains to a different subject.

When visiting an FTP site using a "live" Internet connection, one would specify the name of the site, login with a userid and password, navigate to the desired directory and select one or more files to be transferred back to their local system. Using FTP by e-mail is very similar, except that the desired site is reached through a special "ftpmail server" which logs into the remote site and returns the requested files to you in response to a set of commands in an e-mail message. Using FTP by e-mail can be nice even for those with full Internet access, because some popular FTP sites are heavily loaded and interactive response can be very sluggish. So it makes sense not to waste time and connect charges in these cases.

A LITTLE PROTOCOL OF OUR OWN

Throughout this article you'll see things like "<file>" or "<name>" in the text. Think of these as place holders or variables which must be replaced with an appropriate value. DO NOT include the quotes or brackets in your value unless specifically directed to do so. You may also be told to "send e-mail with a blank subject" to some address. This means to simply leave the "Subject:" field blank in your message. If your mailer refuses to send messages with a blank subject, give it some dummy value. In most cases this will work fine. Most e-mail servers understand only a small set of commands and are not very forgiving if you deviate from what they expect. So include ONLY the specified commands in the "body" of your note and leave off any extraneous lines such as your signature, etc. Pay attention to upper/lower case in directory and file names when using e-mail servers. It's almost always important!

SO WHERE IS ALL THIS GOOD STUFF?

To use FTP by e-mail, you first need a list of FTP "sites" which are the addresses of the remote computer systems that allow you to retrieve files anonymously (without having a userid and password on that system). There are some popular sites listed later in this guide, but you can get a comprehensive list of hundreds of anonymous FTP sites by sending an e-mail message to the Internet address: mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu with a blank subject and include these lines in the body of the note.

```
send usenet/news.answers/ftp-list/sitelist/part1
send usenet/news.answers/ftp-list/sitelist/part2
(lines omitted for brevity)
send usenet/news.answers/ftp-list/sitelist/part12
send usenet/news.answers/ftp-list/sitelist/part13
```

You will then receive (by e-mail) 13 files which comprise the "FTP Site List." Note that these files are each about 60K, so the whole lot will total over 750K! This could place a strain on your system, so first check around to see if the list is already available locally, or consider requesting just the first few as a sampler before getting the rest. Another file you might want to get is "FTP Frequently Asked Questions" which contains lots more info on using FTP services, so add this line to your note as well.

send usenet/news.answers/ftp-list/faq

After you receive the site list you'll see dozens of entries like this, which tell you the site name, location and the kind of files that are stored there.

Site: oak.oakland.edu
Country: USA
Organ: Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan
System: Unix
Comment: Primary Simtel Software Repository mirror
Files: BBS lists; ham radio; TCP/IP; Mac; modem protocol info; MS-DOS; MS-Windows; PC Blue; PostScript; Simtel-20; Unix

LET'S GO FTP-ING!

If you find an interesting FTP site in the list, send e-mail to one of these ftpmail servers:

ftpmail@sunsite.unc.edu	(USA/NC)
bitftp@pucc.princeton.edu	(USA/NJ)
bitftp@vm.gmd.de	(Europe)
bitftp@plearn.edu.pl	(Europe)
ftpmail@doc.ic.ac.uk	(UK)
ftpmail@cs.uow.edu.au	(Australia)

and in the body of the note, include these lines:

```
open <site>
dir
quit
```

This will return to you a list of the files stored in the root directory at that site. In your next e-mail message you can navigate to other directories by inserting (for example) **cd pub** before the "dir" command. (The "cd" means "change directory" and "pub" is a common directory name, usually a good place to start.) Once you determine the name of a file you want to retrieve, use: **get <name of file>** in the following note instead of the "dir" command. If the file you want to retrieve is plain text, this will suffice. If it's a binary file (an executable program, compressed file, etc.) you'll need to insert the command: **binary** in your note before the "get" command.

HOW ABOUT A FEW EXAMPLES?

OK, let's grab the text of The Declaration of Independence. Here's the message you send to **ftpmail@sunsite.unc.edu** (or another ftpmail server):

open ftp.eff.org	(The name of the FTP site)
cd pub/CAF/civics	(The directory where the file lives)
get dec_of_ind	(The name of the file to retrieve)
quit	(Beam me up, Scotty!)

Here are the commands you would send to get a file from the Simtel Software Repository that was mentioned earlier:

open oak.oakland.edu (The name of the FTP site)
cd pub/msdos/bbs (The directory where the file lives)
binary (Because we're getting a ZIP file)
get answer2.zip (Sounds interesting, anyway...)
quit (We're outta here!)

Some other interesting FTP sites you may want to "visit" are listed below. (Use these site names on the "open" command and the suggested directory name on your "cd" command, as in the previous examples.)

ocf.berkeley.edu Try: pub/Library for documents, Bible, lyrics, etc.
rtfm.mit.edu Try: pub/usenet/news.answers for USENET info
oak.oakland.edu Try: pub/msdos for a huge DOS software library
ftp.sura.net Try: pub/nic for Internet how-to documents
quartz.rutgers.edu Try: pub/humor for lots of humor files
gatekeeper.dec.com Try: pub/recipes for a cooking & recipe archive.

Now you're all set for your homework! List the files in the "pub/recipes" directory at **gatekeeper.dec.com**, and bring home a recipe for cheesecake.

A FEW POSSIBLE GOTCHAS

You should note that ftpmail servers tend to be quite busy so your reply may not arrive for several minutes, hours, or days, depending on when and where you send your request. Also, some large files may be split into smaller pieces and returned to you as multiple messages.

If the file that is returned to you ends up looking something like what you see below, (the word "begin" with a number and the filename on one line, followed by a bunch of 61-character lines) it most likely is a binary file that has been "uuencoded" by the sender. (This is required in order to reliably transmit binary files on the Internet.)

```
begin 666 answer2.zip
M4SL#! H!@ ./6H?18.$-$F@P``@?``````5$5.25@S.34 N 5%A480|[.
MIP8;!KL2P,)IPL.PD%@.(!@4.IP8%-@.6%PL!@@*.P4.%00.%P4*.4.
```

You'll need to scrounge up a version of the "uudecode" program for your operating system (DOS, OS/2, Unix, Mac, etc.) in order to reconstruct the file. Most likely you'll find a copy already at your site or in your service provider's download library, if not, you can use the instructions in the next section to find out how to search FTP sites for a copy.

One final point to consider...if your online service charges you to store e-mail files that are sent to you and you plan to receive some large files via FTP, it would be wise to handle your "inbasket" expeditiously to avoid storage costs.

ARCHIE KNOWS ALL

Let's say you know the name of a file, but you have no idea at which FTP site it might be lurking. Or maybe you're curious to know if a file matching a certain naming criteria is available via FTP. Archie is the tool you can use to find out. Archie servers can be thought of as a database of all the anonymous FTP sites in the world, allowing you to find the site and/or name of a file to be retrieved. And using Archie by e-mail can be convenient because some Archie searches take a LONG time to complete, leaving you to tap your toes in the meantime. To use Archie by e-mail, simply send an e-mail message to one of the following addresses:

archie@archie.rutgers.edu
 archie@archie.sura.net
 archie@archie.unl.edu
 archie@archie.doc.ic.ac.uk
 archie@archie.luth.se
 archie@archie.kuis.kyoto-u.ac.jp

(USA/NJ)
 (USA/MD)
 (USA/NE)
 (UK)
 (Sweden)
 (Japan)

To obtain detailed help for using Archie by mail, put the word **help** in the subject of the note and just send it off. You'll receive e-mail explaining how to use archie services. If you're the "just do it" type, then leave the subject blank and enter:**find <file>** where "<file>" is the name of the file to search for, in the body (not the subject) of the note. This will search for files that match your criteria exactly. If you want to find files that contain your search criteria anywhere in their name, insert the line **set search sub**

before the "find" command. Some other useful archie commands you might want to use are: **set maxhits 20** (limit output, default is 100 files) **set match_domain usa** (restrict output to FTP sites in USA) **set output_format terse** (return output in condensed form)

When you get the results from your Archie query, it will contain the names of various sites at which the desired file is located. Use one of these site names and the directory/file-name listed for your next FTP file retrieval request.

ARCHIE TELLS ALL

Now you've learned enough to locate that uudecode utility mentioned in the last section. Let's send e-mail to archie@archie.rutgers.edu, and include the following lines in

the message: **set match_domain usa** (restrict output to FTP sites in USA) **set search sub** (looking for a substring **match...**) **file uudecode** (must contain this string...)

Note: You'll be looking for the uudecode source code, not the executable version, which would of course be a binary file and would arrive uuencoded - a Catch 22! The output of your archie query will contain lots of information like this:

Host [ftp.clarkson.edu](ftp://ftp.clarkson.edu) (128.153.4.2) **Last updated** 06:31 9 Oct 1994
Location: /pub/simtel20-cdrom/msdos/starter FILE -r-xr-xr-x 5572 bytes
 21:00 11 Mar 1991 uudecode.bas

Location: /pub/simtel20-cdrom/msdos/starter
 FILE -r-xr-xr-x 5349 bytes 20:00 17 Apr 1991 uudecode.c

Now you can use an ftpmail server to request "uudecode.bas" (if you have BASIC available) or "uudecode.c" (if you have a C compiler) from the [ftp.clarkson.edu](ftp://ftp.clarkson.edu) site.

Take a little time to play around with FTP and Archie servers by e-mail. You'll develop some valuable Internet search & retrieval skills, and it will prepare you for the next article in this series: Gopher and Veronica by e-mail.

[Bob Rankin, known as "Doctor Bob" in the online world, is a computer programmer and consultant. His free guide "Accessing The Internet By E-Mail" has circulated widely on the Internet. Rankin has also authored "100 Cool Things To Do On The Internet" and "Doctor Bob's Internet Business Guide," available for \$5.00 each. For more info, the author can be reached by e-mail at "BobRankin@Delphi.Com".]◆

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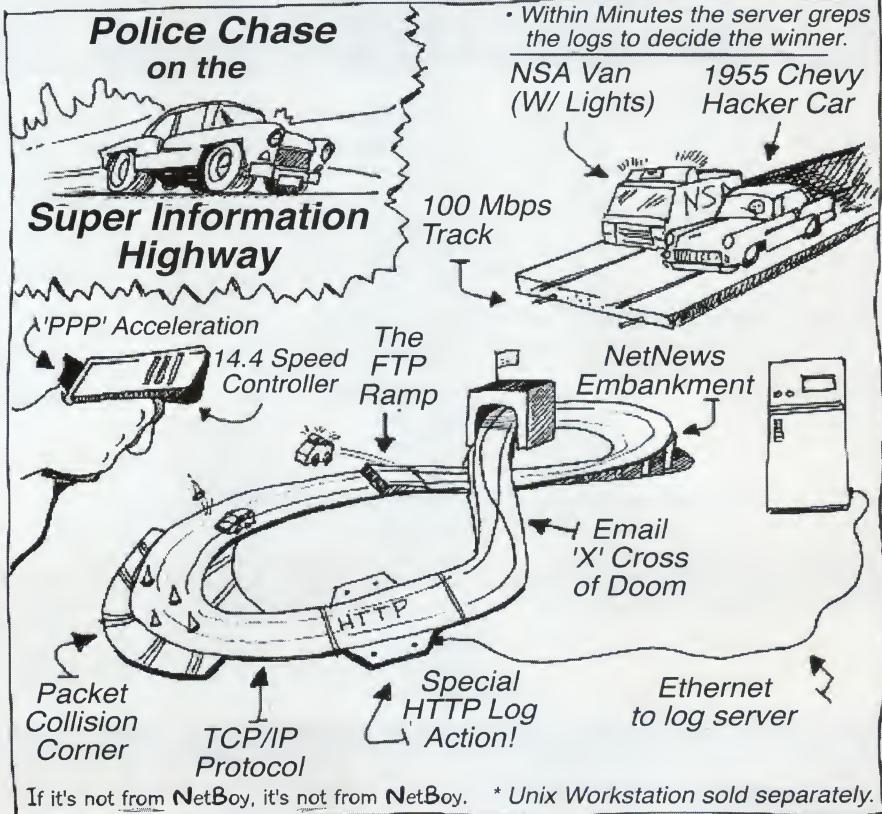
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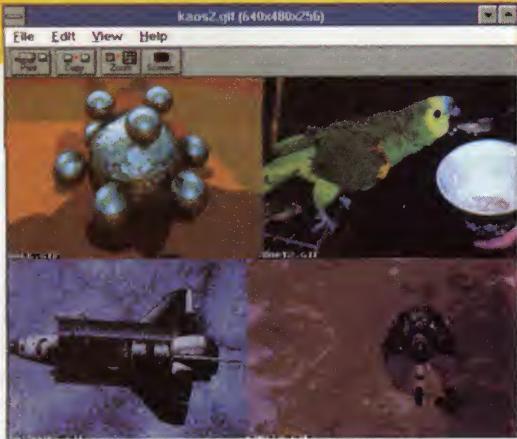
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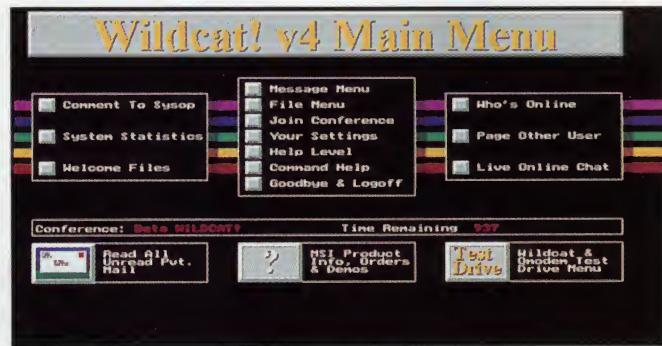
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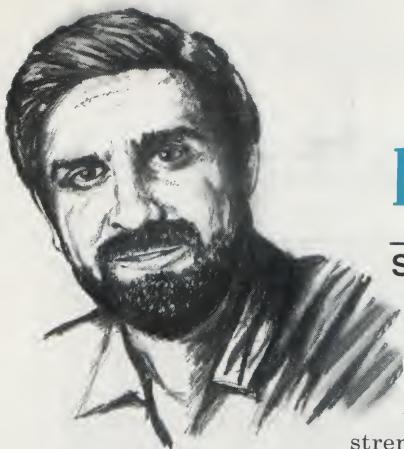
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net.imperative

by Harley Hahn
and Wendy Murdock

STRANGE PEOPLE ON THE NET

The Internet is about people, not about computers. So one would expect the Net to reflect, not only the strengths, but the eccentricities of humanity large. Of course, the Net is not populated with your everyman Jane or John Doe types. To be on the Net requires a network or dial-up connection and the wherewithal to understand the computer tools necessary to make use of that connection. Thus, simply being a Net person argues a modicum of knowledge and intelligence that is not mandatory within the general public.

Harley Hahn is an internationally recognized author, consultant and analyst. His books include: *The Internet Complete Reference, A Student's Guide to Unix, The Internet Yellow Pages, and Unix Unbound.*

Wendy Murdock is an artist, writer, and Internet veteran specializing in creative art forms including BBSs and MUDs.

We do not, then, expect to encounter people dressed in bizarre attire, standing on street corners while screaming about socialism and handing out literature expounding the philosophies of Charles Fort and Ron Hubbard. What we find, instead, are their homologues: strange, crazy, and just plain unusual individuals who, in a bizarre but intelligent manner, naturally gravitate towards the largest gathering of people in the history of the world. Perhaps another way to put it would be: if the Net can be looked at as a huge rock, what do we see when we turn it over?

Let's take a look.

One of the common threads that runs through the world of the net.strange people is a preoccupation with themselves. On the Net, anyone can be a publisher and, on a personal level, we have all kinds of people who are setting up resources that point from, to, and within themselves. Perhaps this is the same phenomenon that causes poetically-inclined artistic types to write ultra-intra-personal poems and read them to other people. If you have ever been to an open mike occasion, you know the idea: someone gets up and starts reading something that would barely be of interest to his/her own mother, let alone the people in the audience.

This reminds us of an experience we had a few years ago at a large computer conference in Las Vegas. We were at a party hosted by John Dvorak (yes, the same Dvorak who writes for *Boardwatch*), who had rented a number of electric musical instruments and a drum set with the intention that anyone might pick up an instrument and start playing. It didn't take long for a pickup band to form (with Harley playing one of the guitars). As befits such an occasion, we stuck to old standards, such as ancient Beatles songs or 500-verse choruses of The Blues to give all the musicians a fighting chance of keeping up. But then something strange happened.

We were taking turns choosing songs to play, when a young, strange-looking fellow started playing the guitar and singing something that no one could quite recognize. Of course, the idea was that we were all trying to play

together (in front of the other guests) and so we asked him what he was playing. "Oh," he replied, "this is a song that I wrote myself." And there he sat, oblivious to the people around him and the rest of the band, playing his strange, private song that no one could understand or follow.

We never forgot that peculiar, isolated individual and if you were to ask us what that guy was doing today, we would be confident in answering that he is somewhere on the net, producing his own web page. No doubt, he has amazing amounts of energy and time to devote to the project. And, no doubt, his home page is of limited interest to anyone who does not share the exact same compliment of DNA.

THE STRANGE PERSON WHO WALKS ALONE

Can we posit a case in point? Consider Ranjit Bhatnager. He, like many other people, has set up his own web home page: a home page that demonstrates the same type of self-absorbed creative energy as that fellow at the party. (Perhaps Ranjit was the fellow at the party...) For example, here is some rambling from Ranjit's home page:

"WORK" IN PROGRESS – LAST SPEWED JAN. 26, 1994

...So here I am sitting in front of the tube, munching chips. Flipping around, back and forth, looking for something to hold my interest or at least dull my thoughts for a few minutes. Television's bad, eh? Hah! I'm talking about the Web here. And I'm talking to you...

What happened to Interactivity? Free-flowing creativity? The swirling mix of global mind and machine that brings about an unprecedented Utopia? Sure, there's a lot of good, useful, exciting...

And on and on.

We don't mean to pick on Ranjit, because there are many, many self-absorbed Net people out there who are valiantly working on self-absorbed home pages. Perhaps a more telling example is Earl Vickers, who maintains a so-called "Museum of Conceptual Art." Connect to Earl's home page and you will find descriptions of strange experiments in human behavior, most notably the Clockworks Project, Dial-a-Dream, and the Dollar Project.

The Clockworks Project involves a timer that Vickers uses that, at random times during his waking hours, makes a sound. When Vickers hears the sound, he makes a note of what he is doing at that particular time, no matter how boring or embarrassing it may be. The idea is that, by answering the question "What is Earl Vickers doing at random times?" he (and his audience) will gain some

insight into the mysteries of life. Here, for your edification, is a short excerpt from the archives:

6/6/94, 10:36 A.M.

Eating breakfast at a small cafe. Reading an article about the U.S. veterans parachuting into France for the 50th anniversary of D-Day. My eyes get moist, which is not unusual when I read the paper.

For Dial-a-Dream, Earl took out a one-time ad in a newspaper in which he invited people to call him daily to listen to a description of his dreams from the night before, which he would faithfully summarize and put on his answering machine.

The Dollar Project consisted of Earl putting a notation on a number of dollar bills before putting them back into circulation. People who encountered the bills were urged to send them back to Earl who would send them an unspecified "reward."

The one quality that all of these "Museum" exhibits have in common is narcissism. Still the Earl-type home pages do involve the general public more than the Ranjit-type home pages, which somehow seems to put Earl a little closer to the shared reality in which we all live and pay our bills.

Moving one step higher, we come to bianca-Troll. Nominally, Bianca is an unusual young woman who maintains an eccentric virtual house on the Net called bianca-Troll's Smut Shack. In reality, Bianca is two guys in Chicago, Chris Miller and Dave Thau. Chris and Dave use Net space that is donated by The ThoughtPort Authority and maintained by Cal Thixton.

The Smut Shack consists of web pages that are organized as the various rooms in a house. You can wander from room to room, exploring all of Bianca's secrets. For example, you can look at Bianca's diaries, read the graffiti on the bathroom walls, examine the books on her bookshelf, and on and on. There is lot of raunchy stuff, such as files on masturbation techniques (including comments from many Internet visitors who describe their own personal preferences). There is also a nice section of the bathroom devoted to excretion technique. To give you a feeling for Bianca and her Smut Shack, here is what you will see in her bedroom. (And, if you want, you can actually read the diary.)

Yes, you would think that bianca's bedroom would be the plusher place in her palace, wouldn't you. Well, bianca has this tendency to thrash, jostle, fricassee, and genuflect

until she drops, cold and snoring, onto whatever vaguely horizontal surface is closest. In fact, lately the only reason she's even been in her bedroom is to write in her diary.

So actually, the biancaTroll Smut House represents a different kind of strange Net person from the Ranjits and Earls of the world. It is designed to look self-absorbed but, in reality, is structured purposely by (in this case) a pair of highly creative individuals who manage to produce a collage of personal and shared experiences.

THE STRANGE PERSON WITHIN A GROUP

All of which leads us to the next type of strange Net person: someone who acts in an outrageous manner that is so appealing as to attract a following. The place to find such people is on Usenet. Unlike the web, Usenet allows people to interact ad nauseam and, in the resultant melange, both the cream and the milk rise to the top with alarming frequency.

Perhaps the most interesting Usenet-renown strange person is Kibo. "Kibo" is the nom de plumme of James Perry, an inhabitant of the Boston area, who tunneled into the Net's consciousness by using a deceptively simple technique: He started checking all the news articles posted to Usenet (using a variation of Unix **grep** program), looking for any mention of the name Kibo. Every time he would find such an article, he would post a followup response to whatever group the article was in.

In itself, this seems (and is) rather boring. What made Kibo the well-known entity that he is today, is that his postings are witty, ironic and more than a little offbeat. Here is an example in which Kibo discusses the advantages of Kibology as a religion:

...That's the other major advantage of Kibology. The religion is indistinguishable from an ice cream bar or a footstool, which has the advantage of making it the only religion you can eat while sitting on it. Also, this means that because ice cream bars and footstools are identical, your buns will stay cool during a long sitting...

Although this may seem somewhat obtuse, Kibo's wit is an appealing one. It's just that you may not get all the jokes until your nervous system has been adjusted appropriately.

Kibo now has a well known newsgroup (<alt.religion.kibology>) as well as several less important ancillary groups, and has spawned a large mythos that is religiously perpetuated and elaborated by fans across the Net. There is a Kibo FAQ (frequently asked question list) that provides the proper orientation for new worshipers, as well as an extremely long Kibo signature, that contains hundreds of obscure references to all kinds of borderline ideas and people. Have you ever seen a container of Dr. Bronner's soap, that contains a great deal of strange ranting

about esoterica-to-the-max? Well, if you think of Kibo as a modern-day, net-savvy Dr. Bronner, you won't be too far off. (If you don't know who Dr. Bronner is, you are probably beyond saving anyway.)

In fact, there are more than a few Kibo-wannabes, but there is only one Kibo.

Perhaps one of the most well-known such wannabes is Joel Furr of Durham, North Carolina (not that Joel or any of his followers think of him as a Kibo derivative). What can we say about Joel? That he posts a LOT and that he has fabulous plans to overhaul Usenet itself. Like Kibo, he also seems to have limitless energy when it comes to new projects. For example, he has a collection of Net-oriented merchandise that he sells at cost. Our favorite is a T-shirt that says "THE INTERNET IS FULL — GO AWAY."

Unlike Kibo, Joel Furr seems to meet with more ambivalence than worship, perhaps because he is just too darned serious. For example, the two main Furr-oriented newsgroups are named:

<alt.fan.joel-furr>
<alt.bonehead.joel-furr>

and perhaps the names say it all. Here, for example, is a typical Furr-oriented posting:

```
>> I don't like this Joel Furr
>> guy very much.
>> Can't this guy be stopped
>> somehow?
>> As far as I can tell, he's no
>> use to anyone.

> Yes, Comrade, I am also tired
> of the yoke
> of Dictator Joel Furr
> Yesterday it was
> too late, tomorrow it will be
> too early.
> We strike tonight. The signal
> to attack
> will be six green whistles.
```

You're all under arrest. You will immediately be taken to a rehabilita-

tion camp where you will remain until you realize that Joel is Your Friend.

Joel Cares about You.
You need Joel.
Joel is watching.

Perhaps it is best summed up by one of Wendy's observations: "He sounds relatively normal compared to a lot of people."

Kibo and Joel Furr are only two of a large number of well-known strange people that you will find on the Net, but the grandfather of them all was BIFF. BIFF was a mythical Usenet person, who first started posting strange messages to the Net in 1988. BIFF's style was pathognomic and used uppercase letters, exclamation marks, and "cute" misspellings. Here is a typical BIFF example taken from the Jargon File.

EVRY BUDY LUVS GOOD OLD BIFF CUZ HE'S A KOOL DOOD AN HE RITES REEL AWESUM THINGZ IN CAPITULL LETTRS LIKE THIS!!!

The myth of BIFF was that he was an enthusiastic but somewhat brain-damaged young teenager who posted a plethora of Usenet articles from his older brother's Commodore 64 computer. Many people actually believed that BIFF existed and would respond to his postings with serious flames, to which BIFF would respond in typical, naive BIFF fashion, baiting the unsuspecting self-righteous contingent even further.

The original BIFF was created in 1988 by Joe Talmadge who worked at Hewlett-Packard. (Joe, by the way, was known for writing an essay called "Ten Rules for Flaming.") Joe actually posted only three BIFF articles from his account. However, shortly after the last one, a fellow named Richard Sexton began sending out BIFF postings from a fictitious account named **BIFF@BIFF.NET**. Richard continued this for about a year until someone sent an article to the **talk.bizarre** newsgroup explaining exactly how to forge a Usenet posting. From then on, Usenet was invaded by all manner of imitation-BIFFs and, even today, you will still see the odd BIFF-like article. One interesting point of BIFF-trivia is that the original BIFF people (Joe and Richard) did not use numeric digits in words (such as B1FF and COOL). These neologisms came later and can be used to distinguish real BIFF from the imitation B1FF.

By the way, do not confuse the mythical BIFF with the dog Biff. Biff the Dog, who was owned by Heidi Stettner, gave his name to the Unix **biff** command, and has nothing to do with BIFF the Usenet person.

(Except, perhaps, that their general level of intelligence was about the same.)

STRANGE PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN TRY

So far, we have discussed strange people who present their wares to the Net but mostly go unnoticed, as well as strange people who manage to inspire a following. What all of these people have in common is that they WANT to be noticed. However, there are all kinds of strange Net people who have no real intention of being recognized as being strange, or even famous, but manage to do so anyway. Usually this is because their own cluelessness pushes a natural tendency towards ignorance and hubris, past the point of irritation, into the realm of marvelous irony.

Such people are renowned in various corners of the Net - for the most part, they are flamed within their favorite newsgroups. However, there is a special newsgroup, called **alt.kooks** which was created to celebrate and honor such involuntary misfits. Aside from being the repository of general complaints and finger pointing, **alt.kooks** is home to the regularly-bestowed "Kook of the Month" (KOTM) award. Each month, people nominate a number of kooks and, after a vote, the official award is presented.

The whole idea is to find those people who take themselves so seriously, and are so lame in their behavior, as to qualify for special recognition. Participants in **alt.kooks** watch their preferred newsgroups for people who might qualify for the KOTM award. When they encounter such a person, they quietly start cross-posting their articles for **alt.kooks** so that everyone can judge for themselves. Here is an example in which someone proposes a particular person for the next KOTM. (Since such nominees are not actively seeking the award, we have deleted the person's last name to spare her further embarrassment.)

There are numerous posts on **soc.culture.canada** from Janet ??????, which are "a series on the psychological and socio-political underpinnings of the current lesbian movement in North America", under headings like "The Lesbian Pedophile".

Will Janet actually become the next Kook of the Month? That depends upon her competition, which is usually quite stiff (seeing as the Net does not lack for semi-intelligent, arrogant fools). Here are several examples of postings from people which actually did qualify as KOTM:

From the **sci.astro** newsgroup, Alexander ????? writes:

"I am almost convinced that in our Milky Way galaxy, at least within several billion billion miles, there is no Planet populated by homosapiens."

From the **cyberpunks** mailing list, L. ????????? writes:

"I have noticed an interesting overlap between radical libertarians, crypto-anarchists, psychopunks, and people who promote sodomy."

And finally, in the **comp.misc** group, Robert ????????? observes:

"The UPC bar-codes are probably the most blatant form of the "MARK OF THE BEAST" so far, with the "NUMBER OF THE BEAST", 666, ALREADY CODED INTO THEM."

In his signature, this same person advises us that:

"UN-altered REPRODUCTION and DISSEMINATION of this IMPORTANT information is ENCOURAGED!"

A MODEST PROPOSAL CONCERNING STRANGENESS

In studying and analyzing strange people, we have noticed several patterns that we would like to draw to your attention. We notice these patterns when we ask ourselves certain questions about each such person.

First, we can ask, is the person generally unknown on the Net, or does he or she have a significant following? Kibo (and even Joel Furr) do have such followings. Ranjit Bhatnager does not.

Second, is the person actively trying to be strange? For example, Kibo is trying to be strange, where the people who are nominated as Usenet Kooks of the Month are actually serious.

Third, is the person relatively normal or not? By definition, normal people do not qualify as being strange.

And finally, is the person imaginary (like biancaTroll or BIFF) or real (like the others)?

Now, to put all of this on a sound mathematical basis, we propose the adoption of what we call "Wendy-Harley Normal Form," or WHNF. The WHNF description

of a strange Net person consists of four bits: that is, four quantities that are either 0 or 1.

Here is how it works. You use the following criteria to assign bit values of 0 or 1 in each category to a particular strange person. In this way, each such person can be assigned a four-bit

WHNF value.

The first bit:

- 0 —> the person is mostly unknown
- 1 —> the person has a significant Net following

The second bit:

- 0 —> the person is not trying to be strange
- 1 —> the person is trying to be strange

The third bit:

- 0 —> the person is relatively normal
- 1 —> the person is strange

The fourth bit:

- 0 —> the person is imaginary
- 1 —> the person is real

So, using these criteria, we can categorize the people described in this article as follows:

WHNF	Value	Name
1111	(F)	Kibo
1111	(F)	Joel Furr
1110	(E)	BIFF
0111	(7)	Ranjit Bhatnager
0111	(7)	Earl Vickers
0110	(6)	biancaTroll
0011	(3)	Janet ??????
0011	(3)	Alexander ?????
0011	(3)	L. ????????
0011	(3)	Robert ????????

Since each of these categorizations is a four-digit binary number, they can be thought of as having single hexadecimal values. These hex values are shown in parenthesis. (If this makes no sense to you, you can ignore it.)

We won't go into the full calculus of WHNF values, except to say that, with a little reflection, some interesting patterns emerge: the most important being that the higher your WHNF number, the closer you are to being an actual net.entity.

For example Kibo, who has a significant Net following, is trying to be strange, really is strange, and is real. Thus, his WHNF value is 1111. A Usenet Kook of the month, on the other hand, is almost always without a significant following, is not trying to be strange, really is strange, and is real. Thus,

before you can even think about being a KOTM, you must be at least a 0011.

You might wonder, where does all of this leave ordinary people? Well, to pick a person at random, Jack Rickard (the publisher of Boardwatch Magazine) has a

WHNF value of 0001. To pick another two people at random, we (Wendy and Harley) used to be 0001, but by writing this article and presenting this theory, we have managed to raise ourselves to 0011. The bulk of humanity, we assume, lie somewhere in between. ♦

RESOURCES

There are a great many strange people on the Net who have home pages that you can peruse with your favorite web browser. Our advice is to use Mosaic (and other graphical browsers) only when you care about the graphics, and to use Lynx (the line-oriented browser) when you are more concerned with speed.

The home pages of the people that we discuss in this article are as follows:

Ranjit Bhatnager: <http://oz.sas.upenn.edu/>
Earl Vickers: <ftp://ftp.netcom.com/pub/earl/earl.html>
biancaTroll's Smut Shack:
<http://bianca.com/shack/index.html>

If you get bored, here are a few more strange home pages to check out:

Lynn's Jardin Mechanisme:
<http://oz.sas.upenn.edu/lynn/lynn.html>

Universe of Discourse:
<http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~mjd/>

Lunch servers:
<http://oz.sas.upenn.edu/miscellany/lunch.html>
http://physics.purdue.edu/~sho/lunch_main.html
<http://hp8.ini.cmu.edu:5550/lunch.html>
<http://grissom.larc.nasa.gov/misc/lunchserver.html>

If you feel like exploring, connect to the "Home Page" home page. This contains a large number of pointers to individual home pages:
<http://web.city.ac.uk/~cb157/pages.html>

To follow the exploits of Kibo and his believers, there are several Usenet newsgroups that you can read, the first one being the most important:
<alt.religion.kibology>
<alt.exploding.kibo>
<alt.imploding.kibo>
<alt.politics.kibo>

There is a Kibo web page with all sorts of Kibological information and related topics:
<http://rescomp.stanford.edu/~asuter/kibo/kibo.html>

The Kibo frequently asked question (FAQ) list can be found on the above mentioned web page, or via gopher and anonymous ftp. One gopher server containing the FAQ is: <wiretap.spies.com>

Once you connect, make the following choices:
<Wiretap Online Library>
<Fringes of Reason>
<Very Strange>
<Kibology FAQ...>

The official Kibo archives can be accessed via anonymous ftp. Connect to: <ftp.std.com>

Then change to the directory:
</pub/alt.religion.kibology>

To access the archive with a web browser, use:
<ftp://ftp.std.com/pub/alt.religion.kibology/>

The very strange Kibo signature can be found in this directory under the name: <dotsig.ASCII>

If you would like an explanation as to all the esoterica in Kibo's signature, connect to the gopher server that we mentioned above:
<wiretap.spies.com>

Once you connect, make the following choices:
<Wiretap Online Library>
<Fringes of Reason>
<Very Strange>
<Who's Who in the World of Kibo>

To find out more about Joel Furr and his exploits, try the following newsgroups:
<alt.fan.joel-furr>
<alt.bonehead.joel-furr>

To get information straight from Joel (including the prices and availability of his net.collectibles merchandise), you can read his anonymous ftp archives. Connect to:
<ftp.netcom.com>

Once you connect, change to: </pub/jfurr>
With a web browser, you can point to:
<ftp://ftp.netcom.com/pub/jfurr/>

In this article, we were able to discuss only a very few of the strange Net personalities. There are many such people and, if you would like to learn about them, the most enjoyable way is to download and read the net.legends FAQ. To do so via anonymous ftp, connect to:
<rtfm.mit.edu>

Then change to the following directory:
</pub/usenet/news.answers/net-legends-faq>

Within this directory, you will see four files named: part1, part2, part3, part4

Download and read them all. You will be pleasantly entertained.

The Usenet Kook of the Month award is discussed in the newsgroup: <alt.usenet.kooks>

The relevant FAQ, as well as the Kook of the Month archives, can be accessed via the web by using the following URL:
<ftp://ftp.crl.com/users/ro/cd/auk.html>

The Jargon File, which we mentioned in passing, is a continuing and unending source of delight. You can access it on the web by pointing to:
<http://www.ccl.org/jargon/jargon.html>

By anonymous ftp, you can download the entire file. Connect to: <prep.ai.mit.edu>

Change to: </pub/gnu>

Then download the file named: <jargon.text.gz>

You will need the gunzip (GNU unzip) program to uncompress this file (which will be large). For more information, download the explanatory file named:

<jargon-README>

INTERNET UUCP HOST LIST

BBN Technology Services NEARnet 10 Moulton Street Cambridge, MA 02138 Voice# (617)873-8730 Fax# (617)873-5620 (internet) nearnet-join@nic.near.net	\$2,890 year \$1,000 registration fee	IDS World Network 3 Franklin Rd East Greenwich, RI 02818 Voice# (401)885-6855 Fax# N/A (internet) info@ids.com	\$15 month \$80 6 months \$150 year
CICNet 2901 Hubbard Street Ann Arbor, MI 48109 Voice# (313)998-6103 Fax# (313)998-6105 (internet) info@cic.net	\$35 month \$2.50 hour prime time \$2 hour non prime time \$175 registration	IMS Intercom 6418 Symposium Clinton, MD 20735 Voice# (301)856-2706 Fax#: (301)856-5974 BBS#: (301)856-0817 (internet) led@imssys.com	\$20 month \$30 Connect fee
CL2 global corp. 3390 Spottswood Ave. Memphis, TN 38111 Voice: (901)452-3388 Fax: (901)757-4050 Data: (901)327-8718 e-mail: internet.info@cl2globl.net	\$30 per year plus \$0.10 per message FTP/Telnet \$25.00 month \$1.50 per hour	InfiNet Infinite Systems PO Box 02138 Columbus, OH 43202 Voice# (614)268-9941 BBS# (614)268-3639 (internet) info@infinet.com	\$15-45 month \$15 month flat rate
Clark Internet Services 10600 Route 108 Ellicott City, MD 21042 Voice# (800)735-2258 Then Give the following # (410)730-9764 Fax# (410)730-9765 Data# (410)730-9786 (internet) info@clark.net	\$30 month \$264 annual \$25 registration	INTAC Access Corporation 256 Broad Ave. Palisades Park, NJ 07650 Voice: (201)944-1417 Fax: (201)944-1434 Data: (201)944-3990 finger info@intac.com	\$50 to activate \$30 month w/o newsfeed \$2.00 hour newsfeed
CNS Internet Express 1155 Kelly Johnson Blvd. Suite 400 Colorado Springs, CO 80920 Voice# (719)592-1240 (800)748-1200 Fax# (719)592-1201 (internet) info@cscns.com	\$10 monthly minimum \$2.75 hour \$8.00 hour 800 service \$35.00 registration	ISLAND NET Victoria, BC Voice# (604)479-7861 BBS# (604)477-5163 (internet) mark@amtsg.bc.ca	\$2.00 hour \$75.00 setup
Colorado Supernet Colorado School of Mines 1500 Illinois Street Golden, CO 80401 Voice # (303)273-3471 Fax#(303)273-3475 (Internet) info@csn.org	\$3 hour \$40 registration \$15 month minumum	Maestro Technologies 29 John St New York City, NY 10038 Voice# (212)240-9600 BBS# (212)240-9700 (internet) staff@maestro.com	\$100 month \$125 setup
CyberGate, Inc. 662 South Military Trail Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 Voice# (305)428-4283 Fax# (305)428-7977 (Internet) info@gate.net	\$20 month includes 10 hrs \$1 hour above 10 hrs \$50 setup fee	Magibox 1873 Hidden Oaks Drive Memphis, TN 38138 Voice# (901) 757-7835 Fax# (901) 757-5875 (internet) net.info@magicbox.net	\$30 year packet e-mail \$25 annual live intnet \$25 month/15 free hours \$1.50/hour additional Special Corporate Rate
Doyle Monroe Consultants 267 Cox Street Hudson, MA 01749 Voice# (508)568-1618 Fax# (508)562-1133 (internet) info@dmc.com	Free Thirty day trial period. Variety of plans starting as low as \$5 a month, wil never exceed \$150 a month	MCSNet 3217 N. Sheffield Chicago, IL 60657 Voice# (312)248-UNIX Fax# (312)248-8649 BBS# (312)248-0900 (internet) info@mcs.com	\$2.00 hour first 5 hours \$1.00 thereafter in a calendar month \$15.00 month minimum charge. \$10.00/setup
DPC Systems 537 Cloverleaf Dr. Monrovia, CA 91016 Voice# (818)305-5733 Fax# (818)305-5735 (internet) connect@dpcsys.com	\$15 Month \$2.00 hour \$25 registration	Merit/MichNet 2901 Hubbard Pod G Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Voice# (313)764-9430 Fax# (313)747-3185 (internet) info@merit.edu	\$35 month \$40 registration
Global Connect 497 Queens Creek Rd Williamsburg, VA 23185 Voice#: (804)229-4484 Fax#: (804)229-6557	\$30 month No setup, no hourly	MIDnet 501 N Tenth Rm 124 Lincoln, NB 68588 Voice# (402)472-8971 Fax# (402)472-8486 (internet) cfarnham@unl.edu	\$60 month \$150 registration
Holonet 46 Shattuck Square Suite 11 Berkeley, CA 94704 Voice# (510)704-0160 fax# (510)704-8019 (internet) info@holonet.net	\$6 month \$2-4 hour \$50 registration	MRNet 511 11th Ave South Box 212 Minneapolis, MN 55415 Voice# (612)342-2570 Fax# (612)344-1716 (internet) dfazio@mr.net	\$55 month \$150 registration
		Neosoft, Inc 3408 Magnum Houston, TX 77092 Voice# (713)684-5969 Fax# (713)684-5922 (internet) info@neosoft.com	\$54.95 per month

INTERNET UUCP Host List

NJCC P.O. Box 6909 Lawrence, NJ 08648 Voice# (609) 896-2799 Fax# (609) 896-2994 UNIX Dialups: (609) 896-3191 BBS: (609) 895-0398 (internet) info@pluto.njcc.com	\$49.95 1 time setup \$19.95 monthly charge	UUNET Technologies 3110 fairview park drive falls Church, VA 22042 Voice# (800)488-6384 fax# (703)204-8001 (internet) info@uunet.uu.net	\$36 month \$2.60-5.60 hour
PANIX Voice# (212)787-6160 (internet) info@panix.com	\$2 hour \$10 month for a user account	VoiceNet/DSC 17 Richard Road Ivyland, PA 18974 Voice# (215)674-9290 Voice# (800)521-2733 fax# (215)674-9662 (internet) info@voicenet.com	Variety of services \$35-500 setup \$5-150 monthly fees
Pioneer Global 1770 Massachusetts Avenue #273 Cambridge, MA 02140 Voice# (617)375-0200	\$24.95 month No installation	XNet PO Box 1511 Lisle, IL 60532 Voice# (708)983-6064 BBS# (708)983-6435 (internet) info@xnet.com	\$1 hour \$5 month minimum
RAIN Box 2683 Santa Barbara, CA 93120 Voice# (805)899-8610 fax# (805)568-2299 Data# (805)899-8600 (internet) rain@rain.org	\$50 month \$200 registration	ZONE 1 Network Exchange Robert Forsythe 5800 Arlington Ave Riverdale, NY 10471 Voice# (718) 549-8078 Fax# (718) 884-7998 (internet) info@zone.net	Variety of services \$50-995 start up \$1-2 hour \$40-1290 month
The Dallas Infomart 1950 Stemmons Freeway Suite 5001 Dallas, TX 75207 Voice# (214)746-4710 Fax# (214)746-4856 (internet) info@onramp.net	\$79 month \$75 Registration		
The Well 27 Gate 5 Road Sausalito, CA 94965 Voice# (415)332-4335 Fax# (415)332-1669 (internet) info@well.sf.ca.us	\$35 month \$1 hour \$50 registration		

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FEATURES

FLEXIBLE USER INTERFACE

- Complete flexibility in design of data-entry, searching, browsing and detailed viewing
- ANSI, RIPscrip & WIP graphics protocol support for all database functions (DOS & Windows Access)
- Complete entry screen validation via pick lists
- Easily jumps from browse to detail viewing

PHOTOGRAPHS IN SECONDS

- Support for the following image formats: JPG, CMP, PCX, BMP, TIF, TGA and GIF



RELIABLE MULTI-USER CAPABILITIES

- Support for multiple users running separate copies of DC Genesys on the same computer (i.e: DesQView) or on separate computers on a LAN network
- Seamless sharing of data with concurrent dBase/FoxPro applications on the same LAN



A WIP Main Menu

create beautiful native Windows menus with sound, text, icons and compressed images for users to view

B Notepad

after creating menus in ANSI, RIP or WIP, create an application in GenScript to link menus with the Genesys Database

C DC Compress

DC Compress for Windows can compress TIF, TGA, BMP, PCX and GIF images to CMP or JPG

D Detailed Output

users will see online 24-bit color WIP menus

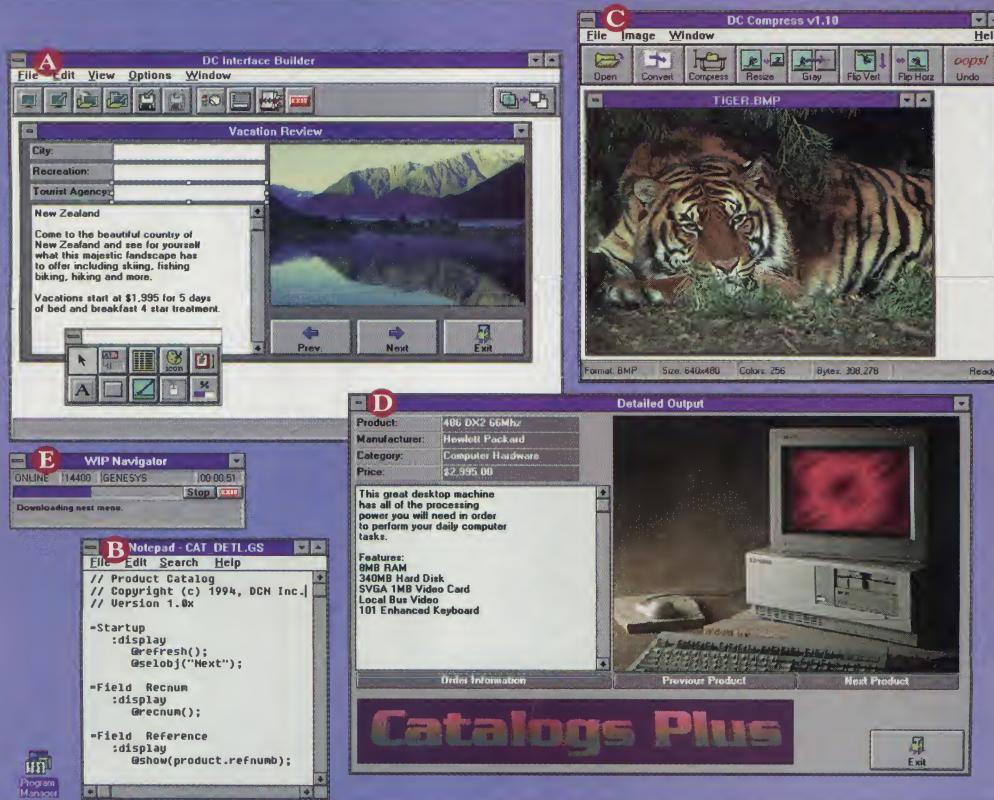
E WIP Navigator

displays the status of your current online WIP session

DC GENESYS v1.1

Online Multimedia Databases

Imagine creating a beautiful 24-bit color multimedia database that will run with any BBS. DC Genesys™ allows everyone to easily develop robust graphical online informational applications and services. Durand Communications Network (DCN) specializes in providing interactive software for the online industry that is affordable, easy-to-configure and easy-to-use. DC Genesys comes with Contact Phonebook™, a turn-key photographic directory application. Additional turn-key applications include: Product Catalog™, Auto Seller™, Residential Real Estate™ and Match Maker™ (dating service). With DCN's all new Windows Interface Protocol™ (WIP), created with the DC Interface Builder™, your end-users will be able to access your database with a true all Windows® interface. Your applications can have embedded compressed graphics, text files, sound files and more. DC Genesys can be accessed through a royalty-free terminal program for DOS and Windows (Macintosh coming soon).





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A True Windows Client/Server BBS

FILEX BBS™ is the first fully client/server, all Windows®, multi-user BBS. Using FILEX technology, Durand Communications Network (DCN) has created the most powerful BBS platform on the market. FILEX BBS is a collection of easy-to-use groupware productivity products: E-Mail, Messaging, File Library (all with spell checker), Chat, Accounting, Security and WIP Compatibility. WIP (Windows Interface Protocol) allows your end-users to access your system with a true Windows interface and allows you to create menus with embedded graphics, text and sound files. Now, everyone can easily develop their own online informational services. Choose either FILEX v2.0 single line, Pro-4 or Pro-8 (simultaneous modem lines) along with FILEX BBS, and you'll have a complete, comprehensive and cost effective interactive BBS.



FEATURES

- Completely Client/Server
- True Windows Graphical Interface
- Multinode Support (up to 8 lines per node)
- Customizable Dynamic Menuing System
- Compressed Image Viewing (CMP, JPG, GIF, BMP, PCX, TIF, TGA)
- MDB Compatible Audit Trail
- Network Compatibility
- Complete Sysop Defined Security for Every Feature
- Multinode Chat with User Defined Macros
- Royalty-Free Distribution of Client Software
- DigiBoard Support



- A WIP Main Menu**
create beautiful native Windows menus with sound, text, icons and compressed images for users to view
- B Company Identity**
example of WIP image capabilities to showcase company products
- C Application Icons**
WIP buttons with Windows icons
- D Messages**
post bulletins and respond to message threads with spell checking capability
- E WIP Navigator**
indicates WIP menu status
- F Status Bar**
shows status of online session and indicates new mail
- G Chat**
live teleconferencing with other members currently online
- H Chat Forum**
choose from multiple forums the one you wish to join
- I Write Mail**
write E-Mail with attached images





ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

by Jim Warren

TIDBITS FROM AROUND THE NATION

This is a small splattering from the swamp of information about public access and public information that has crossed my electronic desk, echoed to my GovAccess distribution list. (To receive its 0 to 6 or 8 irregular, longish collections per week, of current notices and action-alerts about computer-assisted public access — of citizens to government and of government to citizens — e-mail your request to jwarren@well.com.)

GPO ONLINE

Lawrence J. Magid, 75300.2105@compuserve.com, reports that on October 4th, the Government Printing Office announced it is now offering free public access to its computerized files via Federal Depository libraries (there's one in each Congressional district). Alternatively, you can access that data via the University of Missouri's Columbia Online Information Network (COIN). To do so, Telnet to **128.206.1.3**, register as "guest" and select Government Center from the main prompt. However, Larry says that performance, especially during the business day, can be very sluggish.

PATENT INFO ONLINE

Greg Aharonian, srctran@world.std.com, of something called the Internet Patent News Service, reports that he has created a Mosaic site with 500 MB of Patent and Trademark Office records and patenting information. He says this includes the beginning of an Internet site that provides full searching capabilities of the PTO's patent text databases — for free. Besides documents, the current Mosaic site offers access to patent titles in any class or subclass by point-n-click. The patent title data covers from patent number 3500000 through December, 1993. The Mosaic site is at: <http://sunsite.unc.edu/patents/intropat.html> and offers the following top-level menu items:

Determine patent class/subclass using Manual of Classification (from among a Master list of all 400+ patent classes, Design patent groups, Electronic patent groups, Mechanical groups, Engineering groups, and Chemical groups).

Determine patent class/subclass using Index to Classification.

Retrieve patent titles using class/subclass code.

Patent documents from the PTO, PCT, EPO, etc. (including Phone numbers for PTO offices, PTO Examining Groups - key personnel and contact points, Special PTO P.O. boxes for sending materials to the

PTO, Crystal City Public Patent Searching Room, PTO depository libraries across the country, US Patent filing fees, Massachusetts roster of attorneys, Preparation of Patent Drawings - PTO guide, 37 CFR 1.84 appendices to Patent Drawings guide, Drawing examples appendix 4 of Patent Drawing guide, Current PCT countries and future expansion, and Paris Convention for international property protection).

U. S. Code Section 35 - federal patent laws.
IPNS - Internet Patent News Service.
Archive of stories from the IPNS, etc.

CAMPAIGN & ELECTION CONTACTS

Too late for timely publication here, several online voter-information sources popped up — most of them announced around October. They provided a variety of state and federal campaign and election information. Though the elections are now over, and we have finished our current flurry of voting for the lessers of evils, we may have an opportunity to vote again. And, it is certain that such services will appear in time for the next elections — and will be more robust and much more extensive than these laudible early efforts and experiments.

Plan to do your own! — and find out what others did. For example:

The citizen-based Minnesota E-Democracy project offered updated campaign and election information via the Internet, as well as an interactive election and public-policy electronic mail forum that is ongoing.

The new Twin Cities Free-Net hosts the project, and the Minnesota Regional Network (MRNet) donated the e-list facilities. They offered position papers from candidates for Governor and U.S. Senate, the voter registration and constitutional amendment information from the Minnesota Secretary of State, candidate profiles from the Star-Tribune newspaper, numerous other election-oriented documents in electronic form and the text of the voter guide produced by the Minnesota League of Women's Voters.

The project was launched only a few weeks before the September primaries and was one of only a handful of similar state-level projects. The E-Democracy server includes the Minnesota Politics and Public Policy E-mail Forum (MN-POLITICS) serving around 300 subscribers (also archived). As of mid-October, volunteers were trying to arrange an e-mail debate between the state's U.S. Senate candidates

and the gubernatorial candidates. Steven Clift, clif0005@gold.tc.umn.edu was Project Coordinator.

Texas State Representative Scott Hochberg <70712.1661@compuserve.com> from Houston, reported in mid-September, that 10 state candidates, including eight statewide candidates, had voluntarily posted their contributor and expenditure information on the Texas Ethics Commission's BBS — in PKZIP form with Mac versions planned.

The BBS was most-easily accessible via an external BBS available from Comptroller John Sharp's "Window on State Government," at window.texas.gov. The Commission is developing an all-electronic filing system, expected to be field-tested early in 1995. They will allow candidates to file contributor and expense reports required by the Commission, electronically and without needing a programmer.

(The next giant step will be to make such electronic filings *mandatory*, rather than merely voluntary.)

Around August, California's Secretary of State made the state's entire official voters' ballot pamphlet available online from his server, secstate.public.ca.gov.

In early October, Kim Alexander, kimalex@netcom.com, Executive Director of the nonprofit, nonpartisan California Voter Foundation, (916) 737-6270 announced the California Online Voter Guide — a voter information gopher site donated by Pacific Bell at gopher.kn.pacbell.com containing a huge variety of information.

The last, but not least, of these examples is the outstanding, non-partisan Project Vote Smart out of Corvallis, Oregon. They have a gopher server at gopher.neu.edu, port 1112. Among their numerous programs, project interns and volunteers interview all candidates for federal office. These interviews, covering 14 key issue areas, can be used to compare what the candidates say during the elections with what they do if they are elected. This information is available through their Research Hotline (voice 800-622-SMART).

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE ONLINE — MAYBE

This concerns state legislation in process. Therefore, keep in mind that legislation can change fast — especially between the press deadline when this is written and the time when you finally read this.

Michael Swayze, swayze@pilot.njin.net, reported in mid-October that he is offering an online mailing list and action-alerts concerning the New Jersey Legislature's Senate Bill 1068 that could mandate online access to that state's legislative information. He also notes that reports about the bill are available at the Electronic Frontier Foundation: ftp.eff.org or gopher.eff.org EFF/Legislation/Foreign_and_local/NJ/

http://www.eff.org/pub/EFF/Legislation/Foreign_and_local/NJ/

There is also a link into the activism and access to government information directory: [/EFF/Issues/Activism/Foreign_and_local/NJ/](http://EFF/Issues/Activism/Foreign_and_local/NJ/). The filename is nj_s1068_govinf_online.bill

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE ONLINE — SOON?

A friendly source says that, apparently by the time you read this, the New York State Assembly will probably have a fully-operational Internet host, and their State Senate hot on their heels. Seems the New York Legislature has decided it's real serious about getting online. That's all I know at press-time; N'Yorkers should flog their legi-creatures for details — and for the kind of public access they desire.

FIRST INDIAN NATION HOME PAGE

Jean Armour Polly, jpolly@nysernet.ORG, reported that NYSERNet and the Oneida Indian Nation of New York, oneida1@transit.nysernet.net, is developing what they propose is the first WWW home page owned and built by an Indian Nation. It will include historical and cultural information about the Onyota'a ka, "the People of the Standing Stone," at <http://nysernet.org/oneida/>.

CENTER FOR CIVIC NETWORKING

Miles R. Fidelman, fidelman@civicnet.org, of the Washington-based Center for Civic Networking, reported last summer that they have gopher server offering information about civic and community networks and networking. It's at:

gopher.civic.net 2400
URL: [gopher://gopher.civic.net:2400/](http://gopher.civic.net:2400)

There are a multitude of community networks popping up around the nation. I know of a number in the San Francisco Bay area, but have heard of very few in the much more-populous southern half of the state (can you tell me more?) — namely:

LOS ANGELES FREE-NET

Last Spring, Mel Roseman, mrosema@eis.calstate.edu, announced that the Los Angeles Free-Net had become operational; voice-phone: (818) 776-5000; telnet to lafn.org or 198.211.120.1.

Then — and almost-assuredly now — they were seeking volunteers to contribute expertise, and create and moderate whatever Special Interest Groups might interest them. Sez Mel:

The Los Angeles Free-Net is a "community of communities," beginning with neighborhood schools and SIGS created and moderated by the users themselves. It is also an information service providing access to the global Internet.

They required a \$10.00 *annual* registration fee — no doubt horrifying those entrepreneurs and any phone companies that are covetously eyeballing local net-access as a potential big-bucks profit-center. It gives users a personal e-mail account and access to local and selected state, national and global information sources through the Internet. As an affiliate of the National Public Telecomputing Network (NPTN), it carries specialized NPTN services, notably including its "Academy One" program for K-12 students and teachers.

The seed money for the non-profit Los Angeles Free-Net came from a grant by the H.O.P.E. Unit Foundation. They began with 16 14.4Kbps lines in addition to telnet access, all running on a Unix-based SUNSparc housed at the Encino-Tarzana Regional Medical Center, and running Freeport Software.

Classrooms in public and independent schools as well as users without home computers who get accounts through public libraries will have the option of not paying any fee. Fund-raising activities and grants will help cover equipment and maintenance costs.

One of its unique services is a direct link to medical specialists at the Encino-Tarzana Regional Medical Center. An "Ask the Doctor" SIG allows people to anonymously ask medical questions and receive current information within 24 hours. A second unusual service comes from the Sanford Meisner Arts and Entertainment Center, offering information to one of the region's key industries.

Their early main menu implied its contents at that time:

- 1 Administration
- 2 The Post Office
- 3 Communications Center
- 4 Education Center

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Intelligent DigiBoard	Yes	No	No	No	No
Int14h device support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Standard serial ports	Up to 10	No	Up to 4	Up to 2	Up to 2
Caller ID security	Yes	No	Extra	Extra	No
Nested security logic	Yes	No	No	No	No
Multichannel chat	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private user chat	Yes	No	Extra	Yes	Yes
Offline reader support	Yes	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra
QWK networking	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
FidoNet import/export	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PostLink (RIME) support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra	No
Includes RIPscrip menus	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Novell/DOS LAN support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Enhanced CD-ROM support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Incoming FAX support	Yes	No	No	No	No
Chat between doors	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Bidirectional file transfers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
DOS door support	11 types	2 types	2 types	No	No
FILE_ID.DIZ support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	No
Offline NetMail	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
Offline/Remote file requests	Yes	No	No	No	No
Real-time configuration	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/94, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Third party utilities may be required for some message network technologies.

* for 8 nodes Wildcat!IM requires a 250 node license, PCBoard/M requires a 10 node license, TBBS requires a 16 node license.

If you haven't checked out Synchronet yet, crank up your modem and download a demo. There isn't a faster, more feature rich BBS available anywhere from anyone. Synchronet combines the robust interactive nature of a multiuser BBS with the speed, power and flexibility of a multinode system.

It was innovative out-of-the-box features such as intelligent variable timeslicing, ARS™ security, RIPscrip, enhanced CD-ROM, and easy to use fully integrated message network support that made Synchronet a multinode powerhouse. And now, with version 2.0, custom programmability, lightning fast high volume messaging, and much more makes Synchronet *the* sysop's choice for BBSing in the 90's.



Synchronet BBS version 2
Multinode Bulletin Board System Software

- 5 Community Center
- 6 Sanford Meisner Arts and Entertainment Center
- 7 Government Center
- 8 NPTN Information and Special Features
- 9 Health center
- 10 Center For Religion and Values
- 11 Help Desk

The Los Angeles Free-Net Steering Committee included Avrum Bluming, M.D., Founding Member; Phil Mittelman, PhD, Executive Director; Richard Bisbey II, Research Scientist; Linda Delzeit, NPTN Academy One Director; Zita Evensen, Physics Teacher/Poet; Alex Jalinous, System Administrator and Mel Roseman, Teacher/Consultant.

SAN DIEGO CIVIC-NET PROGRESS

Phil Agre, pagre@weber.ucsd.edu, reported in October that San Diego has a BBS run by the San Diego Computer Society (sysop is Mike Stark, mstark@ucsd.edu; Gary Whiteside, gary.whiteside@sdc.org, is SDCS President).

However, there is an effort underway to create a San Diego NPTN Freenet.

Contacts for it include: Thor Brickman, University of San Diego, thor@valhalla.acusd.edu, Jack Pope, Director of Academic Computing, University of San Diego, pope@teetot.acusd.edu, and Bart Thurber, University of San Diego, thurber@teetot.acusd.edu.

CURRENT EVENTS LISTSERVE

Jason Slack, jslack2@onondaga.bitnet, or jslack2@ocmvm.cnyric.org, is the owner of a new unmoderated discussion-list about current events called "CURRENT."

To Subscribe send mail to **LISTSERV@GITVM1** on **BITNET** or via the Internet to **LISTSERV@GITVM1.CATECH.EDU** with the following in the message-body:

SUB CURRENT **yourfirstname**
yourlastname, for example:
Sub Current Jason Slack ♦

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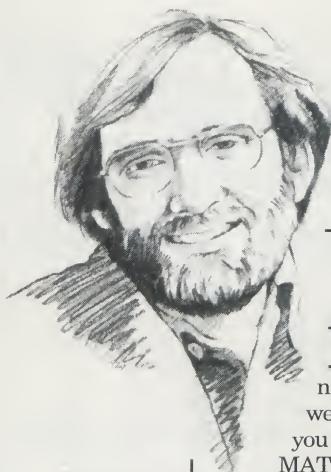
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EDUCATION LINK

by Rea Andrew Redd

TALKIN' NUMBERS: E-MATH BBS

Remember back in the '60s and early '70s, when one of your friends would say, "I needa numba. Do ya have a numba?" They were talkin' about dope, right? Well, if they ask you that again tell them to send the command e-MATH.AMS.ORG on the Internet. It'll get them all the numbers "they need to get by."

Rea Andrew Redd lives and works in southwestern Pennsylvania where he manages a high school library, teaches European history and Scholastic Achievement Test preparation. On occasion, he reenacts American Civil War battles with the Ninth Pennsylvania Reserves, an historic, military impression unit. E-mail Rea at: redd@genesis.duq.edu

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) presents a BBS which electronically opens mathematics as a profession to all Internet users. Both educators and applied mathematics practitioners will find it easy to access e-MATH. The e-MATH gopher can be accessed either by GOPHER [e-MATH.ams.org](http://e-math.ams.org) (130.44.1.100) or, if your system has the e-MATH GOPHER, by making a selection from the main menu of the e-Math login facility.

The GOPHER is very friendly; inside GOPHER type "?" for a help screen which describes the commands that can be used to navigate GOPHER applications. The e-Math GOPHER is organized in a way that reflects the different classes of information that are available, such as mathematical publications, bulletin boards, discussion groups, and specialized mathematical information. If you have questions or run into difficulties, send an e-mail message to: support@e-math.ams.org. They are even requesting your opinion on what GOPHER applications should be added.

Nearly 20 main menu selections are offered; they run the gamut of AMS policy statements to the World Wide Web (Lynx Client). Three different publication lists are offered. Four different lists of discussion groups, bulletin boards, general and professional news lists are available. GOPHERS are obtainable; the National Science Foundation GOPHER (STIS) and other math-related GOPHERS and GOPHER services are on the main menu. Both the Swarthmore Geometry Forum and Mathematic Instructional Materials are available off the root GOPHER server menu. Issues of a newsletter, "Concerns of Young Mathematicians," are posted under the selection General Information of Interest to Mathematicians on the e-MATH GOPHER. Like I said, "all you need to get by."

Looking for something to do? The e-MATH GOPHER has a selection of forms for information about professional meetings that are brought to the attention of e-MATH staff. There is also a selection of forms for meetings and grants that can be used for electronic registration.

Looking for friends? This database contains information about mathematicians who appear in the Combined Membership List (CML) published by the AMS. It includes members of the AMS, Mathematical Association of America (MAA), and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). The AMS frequently updates CML information through its customer services department.

Looking for a job? The Directory of Institutions in the Mathematical Sciences includes all academic institutions gleaned from the AMS, MAA, and SIAM membership lists as well as the academic institution listings from the AMS professional directory. An electronic booklet focusing on employment is published by Mathematical Sciences Employment Register under the supervision of AMS, MAA and SIAM.

Looking for something to read? The Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society for the past three years can be found electronically. Such topics as "Set-valued analysis" and "Induced modules over group algebras" are at your fingertips. You can keyword search AMS publications; a keyword entry of "algebra" found over 50 citations in recent AMS publications.

Looking for something to read and hold at the same time? MathDoc, the document delivery service offered by AMS, provides copies of original journal articles, conference proceedings, articles from Mathematical Reviews, Current Mathematical Publications, and the MathSci database. Order requests received by MathDoc are processed within three working days. Although MathDoc cannot supply an entire book, it can often supply information about the book's availability through other sources. Charges range from \$14 for the first 10 pages to \$2.50 for each succeeding group of 10 pages; fax charges are 50 cents a page for North America and one dollar a page for the rest of the planet. If you don't need it that quickly it will be sent first class fat-mail.

And how about the rest of the world? Access to the WWW is available from both the main e-MATH login menu and the e-MATH gopher via a Lynx VT100 client. The AMS home page (URL: <http://e-math.ams.org/web/index.html>) is the default home page for the e-MATH Lynx client. All of the information resources available via the e-MATH GOPHER and login facility can also be accessed through this WWW (HTTP) server. URL is: <http://e-math.ams.org/web/index.html>. So, "do ya need a numba?"

JANET: THE UNITED KINGDOM'S JOINT ACADEMIC NETWORK

The UK academic community is served by an extensive and innovative data communications infrastructure based upon the principles of open networking. Its origins lie in an initiative started nearly 10 years ago and aimed at replacing a proliferation of different networking arrangements used by the community with a single coherent network infrastructure based upon non-proprietary standards.

It is estimated that over a thousand host computers using a mix of over 20 different operating systems, together with a population of over 20,000 terminals and personal

computers, are currently connected via the site networks. There are over 850 electronic mail services in the community, over 750 systems supporting a file transfer service and over 250 systems supporting networked remote job transfer and management. Most of the connected systems support a terminal access service.

The UK's Computer Board and the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) two of the major funding bodies in the community, set up the Joint Network Team (JNT) and Network Executive (NE) to manage this initiative and the program of work covers a range of complimentary activities including standards definition, development projects, procurement activity, a network installation programmer and the management of network services.

The infrastructure is an Internet formed from a large number of interconnected networks that provide widespread connectivity within the community as well as access to external services and other communities. The host is the JANET subnetwork, a private X.25 packet switched network that interconnects over 100 sites in the community.

At the majority of sites, local area networks (LAN) are connected to JANET allowing off-site access for the host computers and terminals connected to these networks. Over the past few years the site networks have expanded rapidly to compliment a rapid expansion in the number of host computers and terminals and also the rising expectations for the user population. Site networks based on packet switching, slotted ring (Cambridge Ring) and CSMA/CD (Ethernet) technologies are used.

A protocol architecture (The Coloured Book) is used to support interactive terminal access to host computers for both character terminals and screen terminals, inter-host file transfers, e-mail, and remote batch job submission. This is a UK developed protocol and is an interim set of standards for open networking to be used only prior to the availability of suitable International Standards. It is a pragmatic mix of international, UK and academic community defined standards that together provide a coherent architecture capable of supporting a range of applications over an infrastructure of interconnected LANs and WANS of different technologies. The standards are available from the JNT/NE.

Gateways provide access to the United States's DARPA network, the European Academic and Research Network (EARN) and the world-wide Unix network. These gateways support protocol conversion at the application level in order to cope with the

different protocol architectures used on the other networks. Yet another gateway provides access to the growing number of systems that use the X.400 electronic mail standard. As a result of these gateways and the widespread availability of electronic mail systems within the community, excellent electronic mail connectivity is available.

A brief directory will allow you to choose:

1. Janet documents and where to find them
2. An overview of the Joint Academic NETwork
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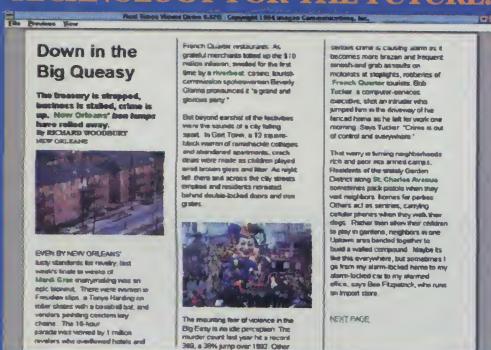
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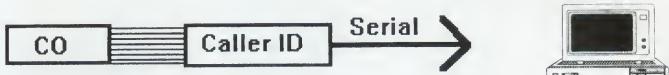
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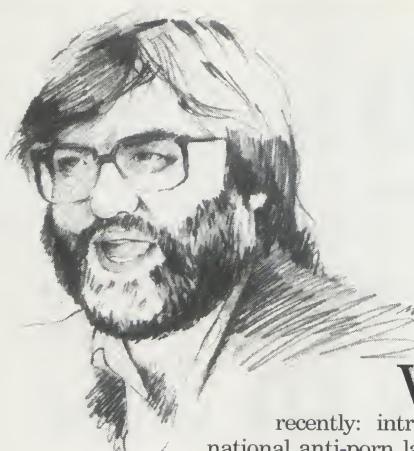
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LEGALLY ONLINE by Lance Rose

STATE REGULATORS: PROBLEM OR ANSWER?

Lance Rose is an attorney and writer practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, NJ with the firm Lance Rose & Associates. He can be found on the Internet at elrose@path.net, and on CompuServe at 72230,2044. He is also author of *SysLaw, the legal guide for online service providers*, available from PC Information Group at 800-321-8285.

We've seen some painful online regulation at the federal level recently: intrusions on our privacy, a proposal for national anti-porn laws for online services, the enforcement of copyright law against every teeny cartoon icon and sound clip file. But that's not the only playground for regulation in this country. Each of the 50 states has its own proud gang of regulators. These people just started poking online, and they're not enchanted with what they found: millions of people doing what they like, with no guiding hand from any land-based government. People doing anything they want, especially on the Internet. The only rules seem to come from system operators and administrators. Most of them don't get too tough with users, because they want to keep them coming in the door.

The state regulators are a different breed. Their mission is to keep the populace in line. Their salaries get paid without much regard for whether they help or hurt people, or whether people even like them. They need no sustainable reason for their rules, just the authority to impose them. If there happens to be a good reason behind a given regulation, it's an unexpected bonus.

So what are these state regulators up to in cyberspace? Simply, they're extending their land-based authority into the online realm. And a vast new sphere it is. No longer constrained by geographic boundaries, the regulators in every state can lay claim to all cyberspace as theirs to regulate. Along with every other federal and foreign regulator, moral or religious group, band of sysops, and clique of netculture enforcers.

We'll look below at two early examples of online regulation by the states, both arising within the past few months. One of these examples should make us glad the regulators involved decided to try out their modems. The other example might make us wish for a new law, requiring that the modems of all errant regulators be smashed flat.

1. THERE'S A CYBERSUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE ...

The net population is probably smarter and better off financially than most land-based groups. This doesn't mean that those who frequent online public forums are savvy investors. More likely, the opposite is true. The truly savvy investors are devoting their energies to investing privately, while online discussions of investment strategies continue evolving toward the kind of efficiency that may one day interest the serious investor. In the meantime, what we find in public online investment discussions is a lot of naive people with a fair amount of disposable income.

Enter the con men. When tickets to cyberspace were handed out, they grabbed a bunch and wasted little time setting up shops online. Their schemes and scams are everywhere: Usenet newsgroups, large online services, computer bulletin boards. As you read this, there are probably several scam web servers opening for business. The offers and pitches are incredibly varied, though they narrow into the same end game: separating the online sucker from his or her money. "Sucker" seems a harsh term, but what else do you call someone who throws away money on too-good-to-be-true offers from total strangers? Anyway, there's a lot of suckers out there ...

In 1994 the state regulators woke up and took their first look at the online world, now 10 to 25 million strong in the United States, depending on who you ask. They found an online arena buzzing with organized ripoffs, and becoming busier all the time. The scam operators had figured out how to harness the power of computer communications to vastly increase the number of people they could expose to their schemes. For instance, in a traditional "boiler room" operation, the victims are sold on fake investments by fast talking phone salesmen. It is labor intensive, requiring several people working full time on the phone, and reaches at most a hundred or two hundred people per day. In contrast, in a public online discussion a single con artist can post a series of manipulative messages for a dollar or two. Those messages will be seen by thousands, and lead the ones who are totally snowed to send money straight into the con artist's hands. A thief's dream come true.

The government regulators decided to act. In July, 1994, New Jersey and Missouri securities regulators announced their first orders directed at online ripoffs, which they readily refer to as "cyberscams." The New Jersey Bureau of Securities, headed by Jared Silverman, went after propagators of a pyramid chain e-mail letter. This is one of those schemes where each recipient is supposed to send a few bucks to five people higher on a list of recipients, and everyone is supposed to end up with thousands of dollars. In reality, a lot of people end up losing small amounts of money, and the originators of the letter make off with a bundle. The Missouri Securities Division went after a guy who talked up a public stock on Prodigy using terms like "\$1 million in profit" and "primed for breakout!" What the guy failed to disclose was that he did public relations for the company, and was the president's son. Typically in schemes of this sort, the gullible buy the stock and its price rises, then the promoters sell their shares at the inflated price, leaving the suckers holding nearly worthless shares. At the time they announced these actions, the regulators said they each had 10 or 15 more investigations under way.

Other states are getting into the act too. In a recent issue of the NASAA Investor Bulletin, published by the North

American Securities Administrators Association, its president declared: "The states recognize the high value that is placed on privacy and minimal government intrusion in cyberspace, but the reality is that investment fraud is illegal and will be combatted wherever it takes place. We want to make sure that online investors know that they should proceed with extreme caution when traveling the information superhighway." These guys are serious.

After being shown up by the state regulators, the Federal Trade Commission swung into action as well, announcing its first online scam case in September, 1994. The con job this time was an ad circulated online for a credit repair program, "100% legal and 200% guaranteed," for "only \$99.99." People who sent in money received three whole pages of instructions sketching out how to obtain and use deceptive taxpayer identification numbers, change their addresses, and do other things necessary to fool credit agencies about your identity. The FTC asserts these activities are not legal, so the claim of legal credit repair is false advertising.

So now the con men know they have regulators online, looking over their shoulders. This won't drive them out, since online scamming is way too cost-effective, but it will force them to choose their spots carefully.

When you go online looking for investment information, how do you avoid the ripoffs? The following list of tips is taken from the NASAA Investor Bulletin:

Don't expect to get rich quick — investments you learn about online deserve the same skeptical evaluation you should give to all investment opportunities.

Don't assume your online service polices its public discussion areas — many system operators make a point of *not* monitoring public discussions, so no one can blame them when users injure other users.

Don't buy thinly traded, little-known stocks based on online hype — these stocks are easily manipulated because there is only a small number of total shares, whose price can be greatly affected if a few hoodwinked users start buying in based on empty hype. As soon as the price goes up, the scam artists cash out and leave the innocent investors holding the bag.

Don't act on the advice of anyone who hides their identity — online anonymity can be a good thing for many purposes, but investing money on the advice of a total stranger is not one of them.

Don't get suckered by claims of "inside information" — people talking about

"pending news releases," "contract announcements," and new, undisclosed products are often blowing smoke.

Don't assume that someone who says they "checked something out" actually did so — stock hypers often lie about visiting factories, checking out mining discoveries and the like. Telling a convincing story is not the same as that story being true.

Look out for conflicts of interest — when someone is really pumping a stock, be alert to whether they have relationships making their advice suspect, such as a deal with the company to pay them with stock if they drive up the price with hyperbole.

Check whether investment opportunities and promoters are registered appropriately.

Jared Silverman of the New Jersey Securities Bureau says that hype titles on the messages can also be a giveaway. Watch out for titles using excited words like "hot;" overuse of attention-grabbing punctuation like asterisks, exclamation marks and dollar signs; use of titles like "AAA" that send messages to the top of alphabetically sorted lists; extravagant claims for returns on investment; and messages in "from - to" format, such as: "your stake will grow from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000."

Cyberscams are not going away any time soon. In fact, they are likely going to become a permanent part of the online landscape. This is one area where the regulators can do us all a lot of good by keeping the con artists on the run. Those interested in seeing an online copy of the NASAA Investor Bulletin should send an e-mail addressed to: schemes@nasaa.mailer.net. Those with comments for the NASAA can send them to nasaa@holonet.net.

2. REALPIX AND THE NEVADA MONOPOLY ON REAL ESTATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

When Richard Woods moved from New Jersey to Nevada a few years ago, he had a background in realty but didn't want to resume being a broker in his new location. He decided to jump into online services and started RealPix, a bulletin board system featuring advertising by people looking to sell their homes. He also runs a group of Internet newsgroups by the name of RealtyNet, carrying listings from across the nation.

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BOA

be a bewildering task. Much of the information on sellers and buyers is closely controlled by a cabal of brokers who make hefty middleman fees on every sale. For people who use online services, an attractive, useful system like RealPix, complete with pictures, is a nice alternative to the need to work with brokers.

The brokerage business is not about to be wiped out, even by the greatest online system. There will always be people who prefer the personal services of brokers, some of whom can be quite charming. There is no question, though, that the increased ability to distribute and share information online, together with the readily available photos of every house and increasingly powerful VR walkthroughs, will seriously thin brokers' ranks over time.

This threat is not lost on the brokers themselves. They may not realize how deeply and inevitably change will come down on their industry, but they will fight it at every turn — especially the more traditional brokers who are not very capable with computers. And so, Richard Woods heard earlier this year that he was under investigation by the Nevada Real Estate Division, for the possible violation of state broker licensing laws due to his operation of RealPix. This is not necessarily a conscious conspiracy by the brokers and their regulating agency to cut down competing housing information systems, though it might be. It could just be an agency that earnestly looks into possible violations by the brokers it regulates, including new high-tech loopholes as they arise in the information age. But the question remains: who wised them up to RealPix??

In response to a letter of inquiry from Woods, the Division said RealPix may run afoul of Nevada law regulating real estate brokers, a bunch that does bear close watching. There are basically two kinds of practices prohibited in real estate advertising, unless you're a licensed broker: (1) charging an advertising fee related in any way to the sales price of the house, such as charging 0.5% of the price ultimately paid by the buyer, and (2) charging prospective buyers for a look at a list of sellers, referred to as an "advance fee." These are the kind of middleman practices that can lead to serious deception and abuse of buyers and sellers, adding extra burdensome charges to the sales price of the real estate if not kept in close check. And in that basic regulatory function, these rules are a good thing.

So which of these rules was broken by RealPix? Neither of them! RealPix certainly charges for ads, but it's a flat fee, nonrefundable in any event including failure of the seller to sell the house. Thus, it takes no piece of the sales price for any real estate advertised. Nor does RealPix charge users an advance fee for looking over listings on the system. The system is free to all who want to browse.

End of story, RealPix is clean — right? Not quite. It seems you can read Nevada's real estate licensing law very broadly if you want to, so it covers just about everything. There is one exception — for "newspapers of general circulation." Well then, RealPix is the online equivalent of a newspaper, right? Perhaps — it depends on what you mean by newspaper: a general, daily information service, or a hardcopy collection of news and ads in ink and newsprint? And that's more or less where Richard Woods and RealPix are at right now. They have exchanged

letters with the agency, and it recently announced it is referring the matter to their enforcement arm, to see if there are any licensing violations worth pursuing.

Enforcement against RealPix would be entirely the wrong thing. Woods made sure to avoid the evils of brokering to which Nevada's real estate advertising laws are addressed. In fact, RealPix conforms to those laws better than many of the newspapers expressly exempt from regulation under the law. Newspapers that charge their readers for a copy could be said to be charging the advance fee that supposedly invokes the need for regulation, while RealPix's free access to buyers is clean as a whistle on that score.

A finding that RealPix violates Nevada licensing laws would, in fact, violate the First Amendment as an illegal regulation of the online press. Regulation of the press always must be narrowly construed, to make sure that even when some regulation is justified, it is not in the least applied to cover press activities for which the regulation is not justified. Thus, where an exemption for "newspapers" is ambiguous about whether it also exempts online services as another form of the press, the First Amendment requires that the ambiguity be resolved in favor of not applying the regulation.

The Nevada Real Estate Division is not done with its decision making, so it's not clear whether they are enlightened or retrograde regulators. If anyone is interested in clarifying the First Amendment status of RealPix for these regulators, you can reach them at **(702)687-4280**. To check out RealPix itself, the modem number is **(702)566-6840**. ♦

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MACINTOSH NEWS

by Bill Gram-Reefer

TOP OF THE LIST

Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail Bill at: reefer@netcom.com

As big as the holidays, the second Macintosh edition of the Internet Starter Kit: Everything you need to get on the Internet, (Kit) is in the stores now and would be an excellent gift this season. In fact, if you have a Mac and a modem you should have this book. But, if you're shy or you don't know how to drop the hint to the right person, just send me the e-mail address of your grandmother or other authorized gift-giver, and I'll let them know in no uncertain terms that you'd really rather have this book instead of the 1985 BMW M3 with the metallic yellow flake and black trim.

If Infobahn and Autobahn are the same to you - someplace you'll never cruise along at breathtaking speed - then Adam C. Engst's (Ace) update to his bestselling first edition will get you revved up and headed tire-screeching in the right direction toward the nearest on-ramp of the super-duper information highway. For once again, Ace, editor of the popular online TidBITS, has backed up the truck and dumped a load of concise and informative info onto about 1,000 pages, and included a high-density diskette with all of the shareware software you'll need to hotwire your journey into cyberspace.

Like last time, the best part of this users' manual is the chapter on how to setup and run the licensed or shareware TCP-based Mac software that comes free on the diskette. This high-octane reference also includes updated reviews and evaluations of top programs from the Indy standards to the not-quite-there-yet concepts fresh from the skunk works. The FAQ (frequently asked question) section on topics such as MacTCP, InterSLIP, and PPP will save you hours of headache under the hood. Also included are reports on online services, Mac BBS packages, and commercial software. Kit also provides loads of tips and tricks from the pros from the mundane tuneups-like how to read a UUCP mail header - to truly inspired tinkering - like when a flamer just goes on and on, just reply "you may be right!" causing total vacuum lock. Finally, take a look in the trunk which is packed with usable appendices.

There is no downside to Kit. But, for my money, better to skip the chapter on Unix and shell accounts. Boring. Just hope to God you never have to use it. And, Chapter 5, new to this edition, has a California School of Psychology touchy-feeliness to it that might be puzzling. But six months from now, when you've run into the Internet wall and really aren't sure of what it's good for, that's the time to go back and really read Chapter 5.

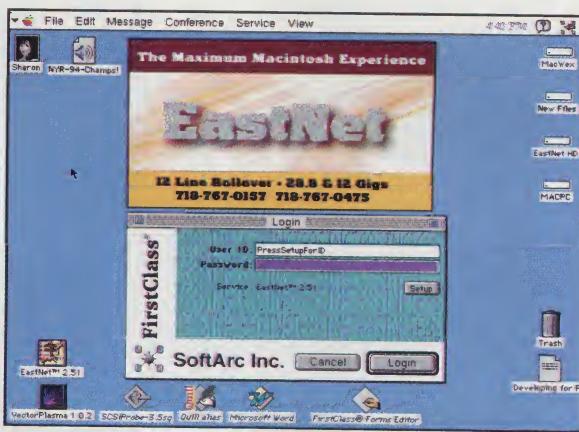
There is no upgrade path from the first analog edition. So if you have the first one, give it to a friend or the school's library, and get the new one for yourself. Gentlemen, and ladies, start your engines! Hayden Books, ISBN# 1-56830-111-1, \$29.95 U.S. To order direct from Hayden and get a 20% discount, send e-mail to iskm@tidbits.com for more information.

NETWORK NEWS

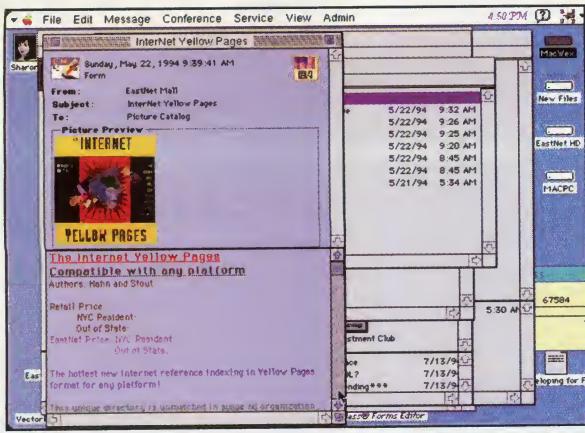
In the October issue we made mention of TerraNet, the new Macintosh oriented network sponsored by Delphic Software. Well, things change pretty quickly in this biz, and already Mike Marshburn and company have had to change the name to InfoSphere. We caught up with Marshburn and asked him a few questions about this nascent network.

BGR Why did you choose InfoSphere as the new name for the network?

MM In a lot of ways the goal of mankind has been to stretch ourselves as far as possible and try as hard as we can to reach the stars. Sure we've landed on the moon, but in the process of breaking the stratosphere we forgot about that important layer in between, a layer Delphic Software likes to call the InfoSphere. The InfoSphere is not another leg of the Information Superhighway, but a link to the next level of personal connectivity that people are hoping the superhighway will bring them. We hope that people will absorb the information in the InfoSphere as easily as they would take a breath of air. Information is just another stepping stone in man's quest for the stars and we want to be a part of that journey.



EastNet - Impressive Mac BBS



Shopping EastNet's online mall

BGR Why did you feel a "new" network was needed for Mac users?

MM I don't think you ever have to have a reason why you are trying to change things other than the fact that everything can be better, and as such, every network can be stronger. In my opinion there really isn't a single network that is well organized in layout, leadership, or distribution. We had the advantage of being able to look at all of the other networks, figure out what could be better, and then act on it. The InfoSphere embodies that research and will hopefully prove to be the model for how a network should be run. Or, should we fail, how a network should not be run, although from the response we have been getting I do not think the latter will be the case.

BGR Were the problems with other networks that frustrating?

MM I don't know if it was the OneNet, for example, that had the problems as much as it was the idea of trying to take an interface that was clearly not written for becoming a network transmission agent and forcing it to become one. Our network, on the other hand, uses proprietary software that interfaces with the First-Class system to create a stable framework that a network needs to be based upon. We've also been able to look at the OneNet and see where some of the problems came in, which it is most likely too late to change in the OneNet, but not difficult at all to set right in an entirely new network.

BGR What about other Mac Networks?

MM What other Mac networks? <g> If we're talking about the Fidonet then I'd have to say that is more of a

PC network, and that statement becomes obvious when you look at the fact that changes are made on the PC side of things without definite consensus among the network's users, much less its Mac community. The Fidonet also tends to run unchecked in certain areas and that easily leads to the downfall of a network whether it be PC based or Mac based.

BGR Any interesting tall tales about the start-up of InfoSphere?

MM I think the best story I can tell about the first days of creation regarding the InfoSphere was the unexpected response we garnered from a few Admins who signed up to be Hubs. These people are really dedicated to making this the "Network of Networks" and have made that more than clear in their messages both to me and the other Hub Admins that we are either going to make this the private network by which all private networks will follow, or die trying. :) I am not so sure I am so dedicated I will place my life in jeopardy to make this work, but pretty close to it.

BGR How many nodes, plans for '95?

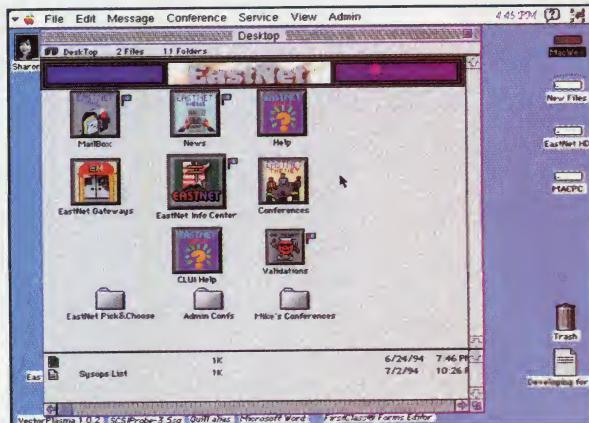
MM I really couldn't make much of a prediction at the moment, but we do have over a dozen TCP/IP Backbone sites already on the network, and this was just from our light query into the network. I think we will easily be able to reach the number of sites on the OneNet within a year or so and quite possibly be much larger if the form of our network turns out to be as majestic as we hope.

BGR Any caveats you want to stress about InfoSphere?

MM Only one really: The InfoSphere is not the Internet and individuals cannot say whatever they want, or post whatever they want. The difference between the InfoSphere and the Internet is that the latter is very much a publicly-funded network whereas the former is distributed by private individuals

whose opinions may differ from those of the other individuals supporting the network. Now, this does not mean that those in charge of the network (which is not just Delphic Software—all of the Hubs have a say in what happens and what we all agree on goes, not just what Delphic Software says) will become Big Brother and start censoring everything that is remotely offensive, but it does mean that we will be placing the responsibility of morality on the members of the network, which should not be too much to ask, considering that this is something everyone does on a day-to-day basis in the first place.

For more information on how to get involved in the InfoSphere, contact Mike Marshburn President/CEO - Delphic Software Inc. BBS: (909)-792-4902, America Online/eWorld/Newton-Mail: Delphic Sw



EastNet's colorful desktop

ERRATA

In the September issue, a teensy error slipped past providing an incorrect modem number for the CyberDen. My apologies for this goof (I can't even blame it on Brian!!!) to BAT and to Rod Paine at ASTEC, whose number was mistakenly published. ASTEC is a private customer support BBS and not open to the general public. Here's CyberDen's correct number, and it's worth a call, (415)472-5527.

While we're at it, in compiling the list I was very impressed with EastNet and I think you will be too. EastNet was first introduced in 1993 as Desert Island. With a large file base and a few conferences, the toll calls to the OneNet hub in Boston became prohibitive. So, Bob Knowles and Michael Wechsler cobbled

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together a more cost-effective gateway chain to the OneNet hub and became EastNet and now serves as a quasi-hub for the tri-state area. During that time they have grown from 120 to 2,000 registered callers, added Internet and FidoNet feeds, a new Butler database, 16 rollover 28.8 lines, 70,000 files, six CDs, and an online mall with preview catalog to name just a few features. Michael and Bob also provide some expert consulting services in Novell networks, training classes, color and hires input/output, MIDI consulting and files, and backup services supporting DAT, Syquest, and WORM formats, and an in/out fax service. Michael hopes to begin writing some customized extensions for the FirstClass system soon. So spread some cheer and say hi to the folks at EastNet. (718)767-0157 and 7980 BBS; EASTNET AOL; 76300, 1712 CIS; eastnet_bbs@eastnet.com INTERNET; or 1:2603/219 FIDONET; (718)575-1318 VOICE/ INFO; PO Box 670068 Flushing, NY 11367-0068 USPS.

And if you have the time, smile and dial Bill Tchakirides' GraphicStation One (GS1), a TeleFinder BBS aimed primarily at graphic designers and small ad agencies. It charges a paid

membership of \$65 per year, for which members get unlimited internet e-mail, service bureau discounts, tech support, three conference rooms, and more, including plenty of files. Members can also purchase stock photography and browse the clip art sections.

Interested users can get on by dialing (203)525-5117, using the name: VISITOR and password: VISITING. The board supports 14.4Kbps with five incoming lines. Tchakirides plans to have Spider Island's Internet host running by the time you read this so call for info on net addresses. GS1 also currently receives Internet mail courtesy of Andreas Fink's InterFinder software (domain:gs1.com). GS1 is also the home base of the CBA-Digest (Continental Basketball Association). If you're not on the mailing list (e-mail subscription requests to: CBA-request@gs1.com), and be sure to check out the CBA Digest section on the BBS. ♦

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Selectable IRQ's 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15	YES	No	No	No	No	No
IRQ's can be Shared, Separate or both.	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Full Modem Support	YES	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
COM 1 - 4 Compatible	YES	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
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10 Conductor Full Modem Handshake Support	YES	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
16550 UARTS Standard	YES	No	No	No	No
Selectable IRQ's 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15	YES	No	No	No	No
IRQ's can be Shared, Separate or both.	YES	No	No	No	Yes
Maximum Data Rate (BPS)	460,800	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$7,600
Watchdog Circuit	YES	No	No	No	No
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DELPHI by Walt Howe

INTERNAV NOW AVAILABLE

Delphi's new Windows based software, reported previously in this column as in beta testing, is now available to the public. InterNav is a Windows communication program designed exclusively for logging on and navigating the Delphi service. The program requires: a 386 or better PC with Windows 3.1 and a minimum of 4 MB RAM.

Walt Howe is the Internet Special Interest Group Manager on DELPHI. He has sysoped for several BBSs including the old Source network, CompuServe, and Delphi. Over the last four years he co-authored with Steve Lambert *Internet Basics*, *Your Online Access to the Global Electronic Superhighway*, available in most bookstores. Walt has also written a number of user manuals for various computer companies, including Delphi. Walt can be reached by e-mail as walthowe@delphi.com. A five hour free Delphi membership is available by dialing 800-695-4002 by modem and using the password INTERNETSIG.



InterNav - Delphi's Windows communications program

Program features include automatic logon and logoff, a graphical e-mail, message forum, and newsgroup interface, and point-and-click functionality for navigating DELPHI menus. The logon scripts automate logon for direct dial, Sprintnet, or Tymnet dialup access. It is not usable with telnet access at present, however.

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO GET THE SOFTWARE

If you are not already a Delphi member (or even if you are), look for the Phoenix Internet Express package in computer stores. This package, produced for Delphi by Phoenix Technologies Ltd., includes the Internav software on a single 3.5" disk, the Delphi Official Guide, the InterNav User Guide, and the booklet, "What To Do On The Internet." This package retails for about \$25 and includes 10 free hours if you are not already a Delphi member.

The second way to get the software is to buy Tracy LaQuey Parker's excellent introductory book on the Internet, "The Internet Companion Plus." The InterNav disk is included in a pocket in the back of the book. There are several versions of this book, so make sure you pick up one with the disk included.

The third way to get the software is to download it online if you are already a member. From the Main menu (or most other places), type GO USING INTERNAV, and you will find yourself in the SIG that supports InterNav. Follow the menus to download it. There is no charge for the download, and the time in this section is not charged against the monthly allotment.

Those who get InterNav on disk should also go to the InterNav SIG and download the latest update. New features are still being added to the software at user suggestions. One feature that is being seriously considered is to give it offline mail handling capability—the feature requested most often by users.

OTHER SOFTWARE OPTIONS

Internav will not be used by everyone. Many people prefer the existing offline reader software that is available on Delphi or software that supports scripts and macros that can be customized. There are now eight offline readers available on Delphi, some still in beta test stages as shown on the following table:

NAME	HOW TO FIND	SUPPORTS
Win-D	Type GO COM Dlite	D-lite for Windows-beta
D-Lite	Type GO COM Dlite	DOS, runs under Windows
D-Lite (MAC)	Type Go COM Dlite	MAC
Scout	Type GO COM PC	Windows
Rainbow	Type GO Cus 250	DOS, runs under Windows
ODN	Type GO Cus 41	OS/2
IntJet	Type Go Cus 267	Windows-beta
XfrQwk	Type GO COM PC	DOS, beta

MOSAIC IS COMING TO DELPHI

InterNav has never been seen as more than a temporary solution to Delphi's software needs. It was important to provide a friendlier alternative to Delphi's mail handler, which has poor editing capabilities unless you want to go to the effort of learning the powerful, but arcane EDT editor. InterNav met that need for Windows users with the very easy to use editor that was needed most, and adds customizable point and click navigation from pull down menus. Other software developers had filled the need for good offline readers for various platforms.

Delphi had been working for several years on much more sophisticated software to give its own point and click design for access to the Internet. While this was under way, the World Wide Web became the fastest

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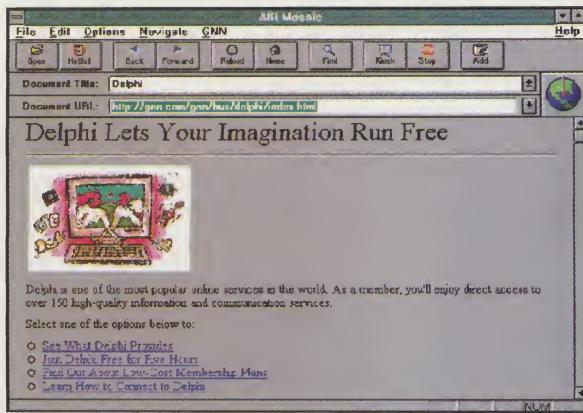
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Delphi WWW page shown on Spry Inc.'s Air Mosaic

growing part of the Internet, and Mosaic was developed by NCSA to take advantage of the full graphics and sound capabilities of the Web. (See my Delphi column in the October issue of Boardwatch for more background on this.) Mosaic provides an easy to use and exciting way to explore the nets and retrieve information. It has attracted a lot of attention in the national media, and has been called the "killer app" that would bring the Internet to the public at large. The early versions were anything but bug free, and for Windows users, it took a lot of persistence to work through many compatibility problems and frequent crashes. But the versions got better, and commercial software developers stepped into the game to produce packages like AIR Mosaic in "Internet in a Box" from Spry, Inc. It caused Delphi management to rethink where they were going in the future.

After some soul searching, Delphi decided to change directions and rather than develop their own model of interface, they would move to a future posture that would follow Internet standards, support commercial and public domain Internet software, and allow users to use Internet software of their choice in addition to whatever Delphi provides. This means inevitably that Delphi will offer SLIP and PPP accounts nationwide.

Exactly how this will work remains to be seen, and Delphi has not publicly discussed it. Apparently, a SLIP account can be run through Sprintnet and Tymnet, Delphi's current

means of access for most members. This author wonders if Delphi has much bigger plans for the more distant future, though. Rumors of negotiations between the parent company, News Corp. and AT&T have been running around the nets. And Delphi could hardly ignore the growing technologies of fast access: ISDN, access through cable TV lines, and cellular radio. The biggest problem with Mosaic for the home user is the speed of the connection. It takes

time to pass graphics and sound, and even 28.8 kbps seems slow for the purpose. Faster access means will multiply the attractiveness of the Mosaic and the World Wide Web, and none playing in this very competitive market can afford to ignore the possibilities.

Fast connections to the home are at least several years away on any large scale. But Mosaic and the Web can be used at slower speeds. For one thing, Mosaic can be used in a text only mode when speed is most important. And Web designers are learning not to embed large graphics files into the initial home pages that people connect to when they visit a Web site through the nets. As long as the user can choose whether or not to take the time to see large graphics or get large sound files, navigation can be quick and easy. It is the unplanned wait for a 700K file to transfer that can make Mosaic an irritant instead of a "killer app." Attractive pages can be designed with small icons and graphic images with smaller file sizes.



Opening screen of Stellar Emperor

KESMAI GAMES UP AND RUNNING

Delphi has added Harpoon, Island of Kesmai, and Stellar Emperor to the already available Air Warrior in its Kesmai games. Still to be added are Federation II and MUD II.

So whether you want to test yourself flying combat aircraft against other players, maneuver very high tech Naval offenses and defenses, cast spells and bash monsters, or explore uncharted space, there is a game for you.

These multiplayer games already have a large following in the online world, but Delphi will be their main home from now on, since parent News Corp. bought Kesmai earlier this year. The special software for each game can be downloaded free of charge from the Games menus. There is a small supplemental charge for playing the games. ♦

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MagnuM BBS	Glimore Systems	805-379-3210	805-379-1341	OS/2	Unlim	32	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$900	\$75		
MEGAHOST	Multi-Net Computer Enterprises	—	503-883-8099	OS2	999	12	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$49	\$49		
Multi-Net	Novalink Professional	714-379-9000	714-379-9014	MAC	Unlim	40	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$895	\$300		
OPUS-CBCS	PCBoard	214-528-4687	214-528-4943	DOS	255	1	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	Free	Free	
PCBoard	Power Computing	801-261-1686	801-261-8987	DOS	1000+	16	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$10000	\$170		
PowerBBS	NUIQ Software, Inc	516-938-0506	516-822-7396	Windows	Unlim	9	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$189	\$99		
Powerboard BBS	ProBoard International	914-833-3479	914-833-3623	DOS	999	8	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$2300	\$99		
ProBoard	Morgan Davis group	612-537-8855	612-537-8613	DOS	255	8	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$49	\$49		
ProLine	Hamilton TeleGraphics	913-441-1336	913-441-0596	DOS	250	1	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$159.95	\$159.95		
RAT soft ST	RemoteAccess	800-363-7626	819-685-0594	DOS	255	8	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$159.95	\$159.95		
RoboBoard/FX	RyBBS	414-962-5967	414-962-1097	DOS	9	4	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$529	\$95		
Sapphire	Searchlight BBS	514-345-9578	514-733-8644	DOS	1	1	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$45	\$45		
Searchlight BBS	Second Sight Software	216-631-9290	216-631-9289	DOS	10	10	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$399	\$99		
Second Sight Software	SpitFire BBS	412-846-2700	412-846-5312	MAC	2	2	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$199	\$199		
SpitFire BBS	Synchronet	515-225-9552	515-225-8496	DOS	255	1	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$85	\$85		
Synchronet	Digital Dynamics	714-529-6228	714-529-9721	DOS	250	10	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$399	\$99			
TBBS	eSoft, Inc	303-699-6565	303-699-6872	DOS	64	—	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$1995	\$295			
TEAMate	IMB Development Corp.	310-318-1322	310-318-2162	UNIX	Unlim	—	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$125000	\$2000			
Telefinder	Spider Island Software	714-669-9260	714-309-5785	MAC	200	20	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$2000	\$425			
The Major BBS	Galacticomm, Inc.	305-583-5990	305-583-7808	DOS	256	256	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$10717	\$259			
TinyHost	Bruce Krobusek	716-924-8284	716-924-4193	DOS	1	1	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$25	\$25			
TriSoft	TSX-BBS	207-941-9388	207-941-0805	DOS	255	4	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$75	\$75			
UltraBBS	Virtual Technologies	303-444-0035	303-642-7463	DOS	1024	16	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$75	\$75			
Virtual BBS	Mustang Software, Inc.	616-399-8934	616-399-4818	DOS/OS2	250	8	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$99	\$99			
WWIV	WWIV Software Services	805-873-2599	805-873-2400	DOS	999	8	DV	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$320	\$80			
Z/Max	Z/Max Computer Solutions, Inc	315-635-1882	315-635-1908	UNIX	—	—	OS	Y	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$695	\$695			

Y = YES

N = NO

O = OPTIONAL

3 = THIRD PARTY



PRODIGY by Ric Manning

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY TURNS TO PRODIGY TO PUT CITY HALL ONLINE

Which city would be a good candidate to offer its residents a link to city government information through Prodigy? How about a city known for its high-tech industries, such as Seattle, Boston or Palo Alto? Or maybe an affluent city such as Palm Springs or a college town like Madison, Wisconsin, where you might expect to find a lot of computer owners.

It's not likely that you'd pick Merced, California, a small farming community in the San Joaquin Valley, about halfway between Fresno and Sacramento and close enough to Yosemite National Park to think of itself as a tourist center.

Merced, a city of about 60,000, is far from rich. In fact, the average household income in Merced County is among the lowest in California. There's no high-tech industry to speak of and the population is an ethnic stew with about 30 percent Hispanic and 17 percent Laotian.

So why did Prodigy let Merced create the service's first electronic City Hall?

"Their timing was perfect," said Ed Butler, Prodigy's regional manager in San Francisco. "And we really kind of took a chance."

Like other online services, Prodigy uses its forums and special-interest areas to attract new members. Service clubs, hobbyist organizations and commercial enterprises all draw new subscribers. A government body that wants to communicate with its citizens can have the same effect.

Prodigy was receptive when Merced Mayor Pro-Tempore Dave Dias and Kip Loving, an electronics dealer near Merced, approached the service with a plan to put the city online.

Dias and Loving were long-time Prodigy users and Dias said there was never any question that Prodigy would be the preferred vehicle for Merced's foray onto the Information Superhighway.

Dias said he wanted to use a commercial online service, not create something new, like a bulletin board system that would require programming talent and lots of phone lines. And he thought Merced residents, especially those who aren't computer-savvy, would find Prodigy easy to use.

Dias drafted a proposal that included an aggressive marketing plan aimed at attracting new members to Prodigy. The city agreed to provide a dedicated PC to create the screens it would display and an employee to run the system. Prodigy contributed by agreeing to waive its usual start-up fee.

"We couldn't have done it if we had to pony up that \$19,000 fee," said Lee Pevsner, the city's housing and transportation director and one of the city officials who help market the service.

Callers who GO MERCED can read the minutes from past city council meetings, check the agenda for future meetings or send mail to Dias or other city officials. An area reserved for city news contains announcements about rail crossing improvements, water conservation and a new youth sports complex.

When we checked in, the section's discussion board included the following subjects: Ask Your Councilmember, City Services, Police, Land Use and Development, Street and Tree Maintenance, Food & Entertainment, Kids' Corner and Miscellaneous topics. Out-of-towners hoping to find out more about Merced or look up old acquaintances can post in the area I Remember Merced. The most active area was the one devoted to graffiti, where one resident was trying to set up a network of people to report incidents.

"We haven't had quite as much action on the bulletin board as we would like to see," said Pevsner. "We're still in the development stages."

WELCOME AMERICA TO THE CITY OF MERCED FORUM!

The City of Merced Forum includes news stories and documents to better inform you about issues. CityTalk is our Bulletin Board where citizens can discuss topics of local interest.

IF YOU ARE RENEWING ACQUAINTANCES . . USE THE 'I REMEMBER MERCED' BB TOPIC.

1 YOSEMITE - THE SCENIC, ALL WEATHER ROUTE

2 Downtown Alley Reconstruction

3 Council Meetings / Minutes / Staff Reports

City of Merced, CA goes online with Prodigy

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Nevertheless, Dias thinks Merced online is a great success. "We're getting a lot of comments from the public," said Dias. "They are applauding our efforts and telling us we're creating true democracy."

Merced has installed public terminals at the city's Chamber of Commerce building, at City Hall and at a community center for senior citizens. Local tourism and economic development agencies have signed up for Prodigy and hope to use the Merced area to communicate with the outside world. And Prodigy and Merced officials have fielded calls from several other cities, including New York, asking about the project.

"This has really mushroomed more than we expected," said Prodigy's Butler. Prodigy is talking to other cities about setting up similar services and to newspapers about making local government information available through their Prodigy products. The Los Angeles Times, which is scheduled to be on Prodigy in the next few months, will probably be the first to work with governments in its area. And when other local governments plug into the Information Superhighway, they will be following the pioneering steps of tiny Merced.

"I think we're creating something that can be blueprinted throughout the country," Dias said.

NEWSWEEK COMING TO PRODIGY

Newsweek plans to work with Prodigy to publish a multimedia magazine that will appear both online and in CD-ROM products.

Newsweek said the Newsweek InterActive online service will be the first to integrate photos, sound, graphics and text in an online service delivered over a single phone line. The weekly news magazine will also offer special issues of Newsweek InterActive on CD-ROMs designed for both the Macintosh and Windows platforms.

The company said it will draw on its six years of experience in developing news-oriented multimedia products. Newsweek produced a laser videodisc for the Macintosh called "Upheaval in China" in 1989 and since last year, it has produced a quarterly CD-ROM product sold by subscription.

"Most magazines simply make text available on screen and, like our

readers, we demanded more. We were determined to find an online service that would allow us to create a rich graphical environment that leveraged the visual style of Newsweek magazine," Michael Rogers, managing editor of Newsweek InterActive said in a press release. Rogers said Prodigy "has taken a technological leap forward to allow us to create our own look and feel and truly capture the spirit of Newsweek online."

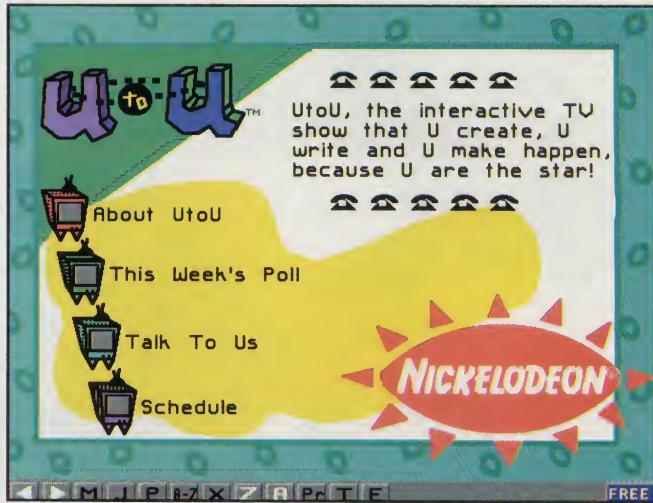
The online version will recreate some of the familiar news and information departments found in the printed version. Features will include "My Turn Online" and an interactive version of "Conventional Wisdom Watch." The service will also feature news-based games created by Newsweek and an archive of back issues in interactive form.

The CD-ROM products will be special issues that focus on specific topics and will incorporate video and animation that won't be online. The premier issue will be titled, "Open Roads: Driving the Information Highway." The interactive CD-ROM will explore how the Information Highway will change entertainment, home computing, privacy and employment. It will also include articles from Newsweek and The Washington Post about the building of the Information Highway. Both the online service and the special issues on CD-ROM will include interactive advertising.

MORE TV LINKS

Two new television shows have chosen Prodigy to be their electronic pipeline for audience participation.

UtoU, Nickelodeon's new interactive magazine show for kids, was scheduled to debut Nov. 5. The show encourages kids to be active, rather than passive, viewers of television. Viewers will collaborate with professional artists, animators, musicians and designers to create stories, artwork, music and jokes. Starting in September, kids were able to use Prodigy to send in their suggestions for the program including funny skits,



UtoU, Nickelodeon's new interactive magazine show for kids asks Prodigy users for input

songs and poems. If the show's producers decide to use an online submission for UtoU, the kids could participate in producing the segment. Kids will also have the ability to use Prodigy to communicate with UtoU and cast votes on topics.

Prodigy will also be the interactive computer link to Judge For Yourself, a new show billed as "the court of public opinion." The show is created by Buena Vista Television, Disney's syndication arm.

Hosted by attorney Bill Handel, the program is expected to be a cross between a daytime talk show and CourtTV. It will feature daily debates that incorporate personal stories or hot topics, such as the O.J. Simpson case.

An in-studio audience will vote on the topics and viewers will participate through Prodigy. Their votes will count toward a viewers' decision, which will be announced on the following day's program.

CABLE GIANT DENIES BID

A spokeswoman for cable giant Tele-Communications Inc. denied a report by Daily Variety that the nation's largest cable operator would offer to buy one-third interest in Prodigy.

The Hollywood newspaper said TCI is offering \$400 million for a one-third interest in the service. IBM and Sears Prodigy's co-owners, shared ownership of the service with CBS in its early stages. CBS later pulled out. ♦

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DarkStar was the first DOS-based telecommunications platform to offer photo-realistic images, online digital audio, and online movies. We're the shakers and the movers, the undisputed pioneers who are shaping tomorrow's CyberSpace frontier.

When we sat down to begin work on our new 1.02a release, our objective was simple: Create a product which is undeniably the most advanced BBS software on the market at any price.

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DarkStar offers unprecedented flexibility in system design and sysop control. Consider, for a moment, the following partial list of features:



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Standard Windows-format .ICO icon utilization throughout (icon imports and iconbuttons)



SysOp-defined 256-color OnLine still photos in .PCX, .BMP, and .GIF formats.



SysOp-defined OnLine audio in .MOD, .SAM, .WAV, .VOC, .MID, .CMF, and .ROL formats.



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MessageBase supports Hudson, JAM, MSG and SQUISH formats. MultiNode page/chat facility supports up to 9,999 nodes.



SysOp-defined OnLine DataBases are DBase II, III, III+, IV and FoxPro-compatible. Photofield and audiofield options are provided.



One-touch file transfers, simple for even the absolute novice to use. CD-ROM support is integrated and totally seamless.



Support for Standard DORINFOx.DEF ANSI doors... as well as InterWare, our own arcade-quality multimedia doorware platform.



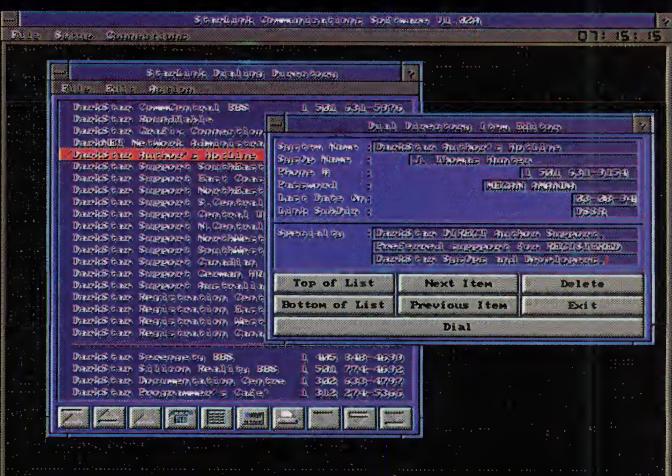
Fully Novell-compatible. Internal record-level locking mechanism ensures trouble-free operation to 9,999 nodes.



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Sample Custom DataBase under the DarkStar Graphic Editor



StarLink terminal dialing directory database.



Sample menu under construction in the DarkStar graphic editor, with iconbutton import facility overlaid.

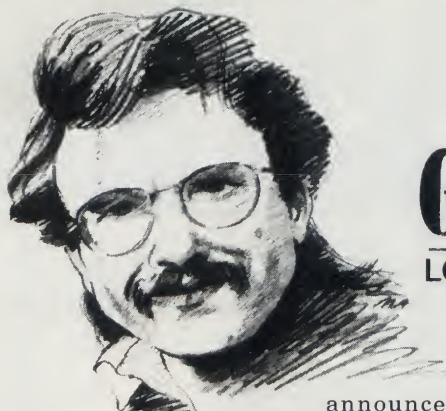
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GENIE by Lenny Bailes

LOOKING INTO GENIE

Lenny Bailes is a PC consultant, writer and teacher living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a contributing editor for *Micromania*, a California computing magazine, and co-author of *Byte's DOS Programmer's Cookbook*.

The big news at GENIE this month is an announcement that "full Internet access" is planned by the end of 1994. The announcement says that Phase I of their plan will provide FTP service, complete access to USENET news groups, outbound TELNET service, a GENIE Gopher system and access to WAIS. This is definitely a step in the right direction, and will place GENIE ahead of both CompuServe and America Online if these features are implemented, but some members have raised the question as to whether this really constitutes "full" Internet access, and also whether they will continue to have to pay \$6 an hour to access it at a paltry 9600 bps. Interestingly, simultaneously with GENIE's Internet announcement, General Electric made a public statement about its plans to establish an Internet presence, via a World Wide Web server, and act as a reseller for Spry, Inc.'s popular "Internet in a Box" package. There was no mention in GENIE's announcement of Mosaic, or access to World Wide Web.

Mark Walsh, GENIE's new President, held an open roundtable conference on October 19, attempting to field questions about the plans for Internet access, and reply to other sore points with users, such as the deficiency of GENIE's graphic frontends, and delays in the development of a significant upgrade for Aladdin, the text-based GENIE browser. Walsh's previous background has been in the management of Cable TV. He provided the assembled throng in the GENIEUS RT with generalized rhetoric about "the marketplace" and "making GENIE a major contender among online services," but offered no specific information about GENIE's future plans, beyond what was contained in the Internet Announcement. Walsh's address was full of management buzzwords, but the impression he left was of a telecommunications novice. He was unable to answer questions about support for a full ANSI character set, and had to ask his sysop what "ROTFL" meant. To queries about dropping access rates, implementing a graphic interface, upgrading Aladdin, and improving customer service, his response was "We're looking into these things." GENIE would like to make a transition from the Honeywell mainframes where the bulk of the service currently resides to a platform that would be more conducive to running a real graphic interface, but Walsh reported that won't be happening for at least another year.

The GENIE sysops and assistants who moderated the Walsh "press conference" were more responsive in replying to specific user queries. One of GENIE's strongpoints has always been the technical sophisti-

cation and enthusiasm of its paid and unpaid help. On the Internet questions: sysop Andy Finkenstadt suggested that users who want to run Lynx (the text-based Web browser), or access Internet Relay Chat, will be able to telnet to another server that offers public implementation of these features. On the issue of reduced rates for Internet access, several users brought up the idea of a pro-rated pricing structure based on the number of hours used each month. Walsh replied: "We do not want to get into a price war with our competitors...we must price fairly, but not insanely. To treat connectivity and pricing as if all the services were the same and worth the same is also crazy. We are not the same. However the idea of a heavy users club is one we are actively exploring, and may conclude makes some sense."

Another Sysop, Nic Grabien of the Science Fiction Roundtable had this to say about GENIE's plan: "GENIE's not going into competition with the commercial Internet providers; they're competing with CIS, AOL, Prodigy and others of that ilk. The interface being constructed is intended to make it easy for people to get started in finding junque out on the net. Think of us as an Internet DayCare center. Welcome to the Intergarten...By Intergarten, I'm referring to the experience level of the target audience for the service, not the capabilities of the service, itself, for the crowd that's never been anywhere but GENIE and/or a few of the other major services, GENIE's implementation will be a Wondrous Thing, indeed, even at \$3 per hour."

Currently, GENIE charges a prime-time rate surcharge of \$9.50 an hour (\$12.00 per hour in Canada), making it impractical for the bulk of its home users to log on during the hours of 8-6 during



GENIE's Online Magazine - Livewire, touting multimedia CD software, comics and Halloween

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Graphical user interfaces have been available on many different computer systems for years. But until now, you haven't been able to get a bulletin board system with a GUI unless you used a proprietary solution. Until now, RIPscript (Remote Imaging Protocol script language) is a published specification developed by TeleGrafix supported by over twenty-five leading vendors on the PC, Macintosh, and Unix platforms. Any on-line system that can display a text menu can use RIPscript. Chances are that your favorite BBS has RIPscript support built in.



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RIPaint is a graphical drawing environment designed for creating menus and screens to supplement or replace a host's existing menus. Integrated tools for creation of clickable buttons, creation and use of bitmap icons, and optimization of files makes this a powerful tool for creating a graphical user interface for your system at an affordable price - \$200.

RIPscript Graphics are supported by these bulletin board systems:

The Major BBS (Galacticomm)
NovaLink Professional (ResNova)
Osiris XLT (Int'l TeleCom)

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By:
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Science Fiction and Fantasy roundtable provides first hand info on favorite Sci-Fi flicks

the week. An additional **\$6.00** per hour surcharge for logging in on a 9600bps line has recently been reduced to **\$3.00** per hour.

If you're wondering how GEnie manages to attract and hold a home-user base with these rates, the answer is that most of them are nightowls, who use other services during the day to conduct electronic business. For its first five years of existence, GEnie offered a flat rate "all-you-can-read" deal for nighttime users that allowed it to establish a number of loyal "virtual communities." At **\$3** per hour after 6PM, GEnie has provided an electronic home for a more mature user-base that enjoys socializing electronically. There are impressive software libraries for all computer platforms, and clusters of special interest "hobby groups" who find GEnie more conducive to chat than either CompuServe or America Online. (I've hit the highlights of some of these in past Boardwatch columns.) The general tone of GEnie's roundtables tends to demonstrate a "mid-American family" motif, but with more intellectual depth and freedom of expression than you encounter on Prodigy. GEnie also has a reasonable compliment of educational services and regional forums. The place is kind of like a community rec hall, where you'd be comfortable leaving your kids, or playing a game of cards — but not really a hip and happening boutique. (GEnie's Science Fiction Roundtable may be an exception to this rule, as even hip NETsurfers regard it as one of the top spots in all of Cyberspace to hang out in.) It remains to be seen whether GEnie management will be more responsive in the future, to the requests of its loyal users in establishing a transition to the online world of the '90s.

This month's GEnie LIVEWIRE is about equally divided between celebrating the onset of Halloween and publicizing the multimedia sound and CD software available across a spectrum of computer platforms. If you're interested in playing .WAV, .MOD, MIDI and other forms of digital sound, the IBM, MAC, AMIGA, ATARI, and APPLE libraries feature an abundance of utilities and recorded music. The OS/2 RT (Page 1400) now features a musical composition package for OS/2 that allows you to enter notes from the keyboard, automatically transpose keys, and print out multi-voice sheet music. (Look for ACCU Music System, file 2178 in the file library.)

The Halloween aspect of GEnie this month celebrates and focuses in on America's gradually developing love affair with The Vampire, his kith and kin. The ShowBiz RT featured a live (or undead) chat with Nigel Bennett, who plays a "vampire master" on the television series FOREVER KNIGHT. The Science Fiction and Fantasy RT-3, (the fan-oriented division of SFRT) featured a series of roundtables on Anne Rice's books and new movie, sponsored by a writing group called "Theatre Delacroix." As an aging hippie, I should probably refrain from clucking my tongue at the increasing popularity of the dominant/submissive master/victim metaphor as a sexual paradigm over the last 10 years, (and also refrain from drawing parallels with the ascendency of "cut-throat" capitalism).

SFRT-1 (the literature and idea-oriented division of the Science Fiction Roundtable) featured roundtable conferences this month with Susan Shwartz, Bruce Coville, and Martha Soukup, whose short story "Over the Long Haul" was recently made into a SHOWTIME movie directed by Danny Glover and starring Lou Diamond-Phillips (the original short story is available for download as file 1214 in the SFRT-1 library). SFRT-2 (the media-oriented division) featured a series of conferences about the new Startrek Voyager series, and Babylon-5. Many people actively involved in writing/producing the latter (including producer Joe Stracynski) are regulars in SFRT and participate in these weekly sessions. I do most of my SFRT browsing over in the books-and-literature division, but the SFRT-3 file library has an impressive photo array of aliens

with bulging, prosthetic foreheads, and big-haired Earth-women in full military dress, if that's what you're into.

GEnie's COMICS RT (Page 1320) has kicked off a campaign of posting full comic-book adventures to its file library. So far, users can download two black-and-white books from Heroic Publishing and a gorgeous full, color release from Marvel. I wasn't very impressed with the artwork in Heroic's BLACK ENCHANTRESS, but the script does its best to follow the contemporary comics trend toward more character development, and the exploration of the darker side of the human psyche. The Marvel release: GENERATION X, is being widely distributed on a number of online services. A science fiction editor over in SFRT-1 has a funny story to tell in connection with this. Apparently, he opened the door to his office one day and found three large packages with over 600 copies of GENERATION X parked in the reception room. After speculating, briefly, on the potential resale value of all those comics, he called Marvel and asked what was going on. Their PR person told him that someone in the promotions department thought it would be a good idea to send 300 copies of GENERATION X #1 and a display unit to everyone on the Marvel comp list. Since this editor normally receives two complimentary copies of Marvel's comic books, he got six hundred copies of GENERATION X and two display units! ♦



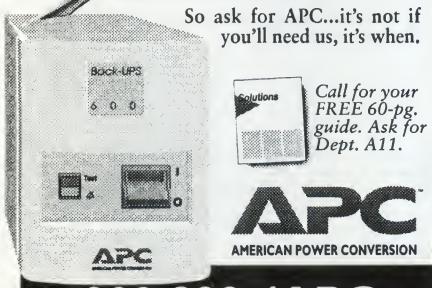
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TELECONFUSION

BY CHARLES J. MOORE

EBINEZER HAD A POINT

Well, guess what, it's that time of year again and the Christmas season is upon us. I guess we all know the importance of this yearly event and what it stands for...BUYING LOTS OF STUFF! That's right, it's time to run that credit card to the limit and pretty much ruin your financial life for at least the next 365 days and just about the time you get a grip on the bills from last Christmas it's time to do it again.

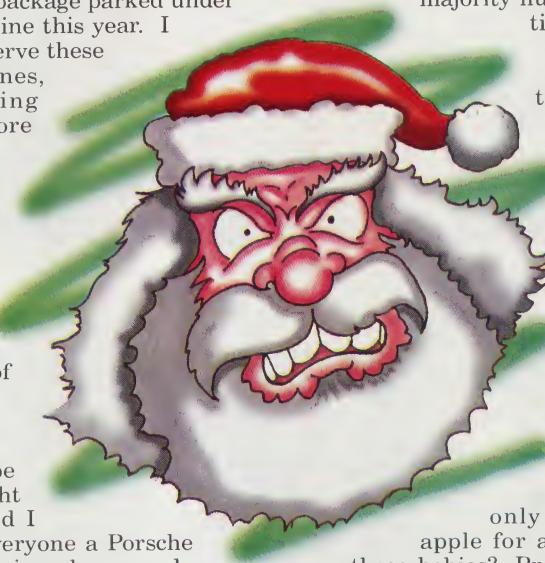
The reason I mention all this is simply because the computer industry is one of the worst offenders of this line of logic. Every one of us would love to get that new modem or software package parked under the simulated plastic scotch pine this year. I would like to think we all deserve these little gifts from our loved ones, but maybe this whole thing should be looked at in a more realistic light.

This year I've decided to go with an old fashioned Christmas custom and make gifts for everyone myself. Your first thought may be "what a cheap ass," and there may be some validity to that but that is only part of the reason. If I were indeed a total cheapo I would not even bother to make these items. My approach would be based on the "it's the thought that counts" philosophy and I would think about getting everyone a Porsche and let them know about it in a homemade card. "Merry Christmas Patty - I really can picture that new Ford Explorer in your driveway" or maybe "Happy Holidays Mom, I thought about how happy a new big screen would make you." Seems to me that, as they say, talk is cheap. We want stuff for Christmas, not thoughts about getting stuff.

Some gift items are, of course, a little easier to "hand craft" than others. I would really like to give someone a totally hand made modem for example, but my knowledge of electronics is pretty much limited to changing light bulbs and flashlight batteries (if the instructions are on the handle) and even then I proceed with some caution. Since my area of expertise is in the art world I will be giving everyone a portrait of themselves or maybe a pet rat or something. I know that most of these illustrations will not ever get framed or hung on a wall because it seems that people have some sort of mental block about doing that but I will have done my part and got this gift giving thing out of the way.

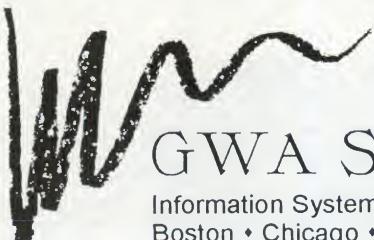
When you think about it, it's a lot better than one of those cheese log and salami baskets from the mail

order place at the mall. There is a real useful gift to get. "Oh boy!, a five pound Cheese log from Uncle Ned," or how about those little candies that are really little cakes inside? What the hell are those for? I mean if you are really intent on giving someone a food item for Christmas at least make it something that will be used. I would rather get a couple pounds of hamburger or a pork roast for a gift than one of those boxes of dry cookies from Norway that end up on top of the refrigerator for the next two years, or worst yet, Fruit cake! Are there really people out there that actually eat this stuff? If so, we should find out who they are and all of us that do not (and I can only assume that that is a majority number) mail those stupid little tin cans full of stale fruit and clear green and red chunks of whatever that is supposed to be to these people so they can plug up their colons to their hearts content.



I went to a Christmas craft fair a couple weeks ago (hey, I was trying to be a nice guy and said I would go in a moment of weakness) and I was amazed at the things that people want you to buy for Christmas gifts. Have you ever wondered why anyone would get excited about unwrapping a box on Christmas morning only to find a doll with a dried apple for a head. You ever see one of these babies? Pretty scary. Then there is the ever popular toaster and matching blender cover, gotta get one of these before they're all gone. Maybe I just don't realize how the atmosphere can have a negative effect on an "unprotected appliance" but it's not my idea of a real thoughtful gift item.

With this in mind, I would like to offer up some gift ideas for that "Computer Junkie" we all know. For starters, how about a solid knotty pine computer case (this would work in either tower or desktop configurations) or maybe a macrame monitor swag and who would not be thrilled to death with the idea of receiving a lace modem cozy on Christmas morning. If all else fails there is always the ever popular "case of Jolt Cola and box of chocolate covered coffee beans" gift pack. A great gift for those that will be "Burning the midnight oil" trying to figure out what the hell to do with that lace trimmed mouse pad. Anyway, have a great holiday season and remember, it may be a cheese log or even a fruit cake but in the end, "it's the thought that counts." ♦



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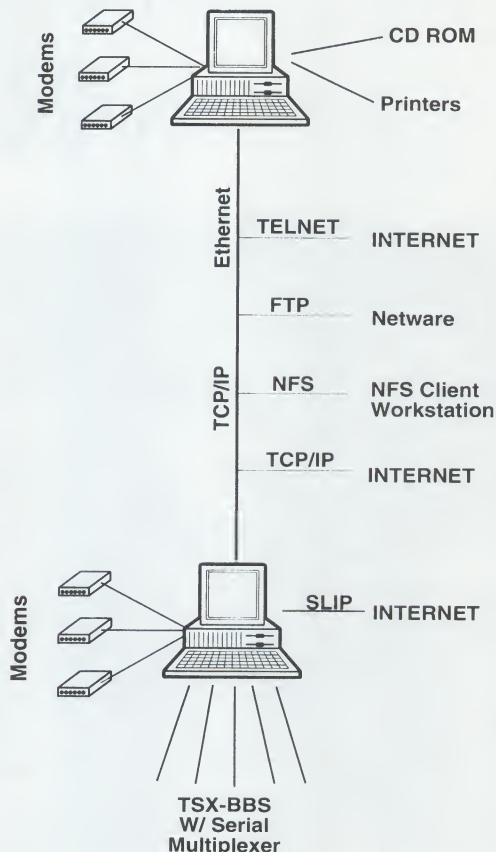
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DIRECT DIAL

by Brian Gallagher

FLINN THE KING

As the little steam engine huffed and puffed its way up the mountain and finally crested the peak all stood in amazement at the accomplishment - indeed this was a little train that *really* could. Similarly, when 12-year-old Daniel Walls, a 7th grader from Martinez Georgia decided he was going to set up his own bulletin board system his parents stood in amazement when in fact - he did. By saving money from birthdays and holidays and combining that with money he earns by mowing a neighbor's lawn, this swaddling sysop saved enough money to establish his own online realm, The Dragon's Breath BBS, (706)869-1194, of which he is lord and master.

The board first opened in September 1994 and has already logged over 1,000 calls, much to the delight of its ruler, "Flinn the King." Walls' imperial title was derived from a science fiction book titled "Tainted Sword" by D.J. Watry, whose main character was Flinn the Mighty. The reason for changing the title from "mighty" to "king," (he logs on as Flinn the Mighty to other systems), is "I thought Flinn the King would be better for the sysop because you have more power," he said.

Using a computer to play games since he was seven, Walls' online travels didn't begin until spring of last year when he got a 2400 baud modem. He called Prodigy, and the Imagination Network at first, and quickly fell into the local scene when he discovered its existence. After a short three months of calling area BBSs, the adventuring youngster downloaded a copy of Remote Access from a local board running the same and set it up. "I did it all myself," he said, downloaded the file, read the accompanying documentation, and installed it accordingly.

He mentioned the initial set up for the BBS was a time consuming, tedious process, but once he did get it going, the work was well worth it. The high points for the Remote Access software he said, are the ease of installing CD ROMs, doors don't cost \$100 apiece, the two node version is only \$50 and, "it doesn't get stuck as easy as Wildcat!"

The big drive for setting up the system was his love of role playing games and the lack of such in his immediate area. Therefore it is not surprising the Dragon's Breath has 11



Flinn the King, (Daniel Walls), hard at work on the Dragon's Breath BBS

door games on the system including: Legend of the Red Dragon, Planets: The Exploration of Space, and USURPER - his favorite, even if he does get killed all of the time.

Through his short sysoping experience Walls has found many new friends and that he really enjoys making ansi screens and menus. The Dragon's Breath features a first rate ansi gallery, (he did the picture of the dog), and another area board run by a sysop known to Walls' only as "Specter," carries four sets of menu screens done by him. Doing menu screens or ansi art for other systems Walls finds not only personally rewarding, but by tacking on the name and number of his board to the pieces he does, he also finds it a good way of steering callers towards his system.

Currently running on a 386/16 with one line, this fledgling sysop is hoping to add additional lines as soon as he can get a faster machine. Being as it is that his parents are "pretty much fascinated with the bulletin board," he said, he hopes to have a new machine soon. A hint for his parents, (Sarah and Bill), his wish list for Santa Claus is rather centered around a 486/66 with a double speed CD ROM and a 720 MB hard drive.

Walls' recent entertainments of playing football and collecting baseball cards, has for now, taken a back seat to online adventuring, his mother said, "That's all he's done (BBS) all summer; he didn't even want to go on vacation." Getting him off the BBS and making him go to bed is a new challenge confronting his parents, but one they are growing accustomed to and one they aren't complaining about either - they see a career forming in Daniel, their own little prodigy.

The Dragon's Breath BBS, attn: Daniel Walls; 4202 Quail Spring Circle, Martinez, GA 30907; (706)869-1194 BBS. ♦



Welcome to the realm of Flinn the King

- FLINN THE KING
- FINDING THOSE FAMILY TIES
- TERRAPIN STATION
- WORKING TOGETHER IN OKLAHOMA

FINDING THOSE FAMILY TIES

Snowflakes and Santa Claus, big family dinners and long distance phone calls, Christmas cards and candy canes - all sure signs that the holiday season is once again upon us. Besides all of the shopping and wrapping and decorating that takes place there is an underlying current to this flourishing sense of goodwill, and much of that has to do with families and friends. For perhaps at no other time during the year do distant relatives or old friends talk than when choruses of Christmas carols echo through the air. And it is this time of the year when finding long lost relations, remembering lost loved ones of years gone past and recalling one's roots becomes paramount for some. For those with this yearning to know about their past, those looking to trace their family line, Everton Publishers' Everton's On-Line Search, (801)752-6095 of Logan, Utah is sure to be a valuable asset.

This six line system first opened for business in September of 1992 running Renegade software before switching to VBBS a short two months later. The sysop at the time, Joshua Jensen, found himself a better position working for Epic games, and called his friend, Travis Hayes to come and take it over. Hayes ran the system on VBBS until a hard drive crashed in the summer of 1993 when he switched to PC Board for several reasons, not the least of which was their offices were only 90 miles away if they ran into trouble and the company having been around for 11 years didn't hurt either. Lee Everton, President of Everton Publishers, whose idea it was to start the service, drove to PC Board's headquarters in Murray, Utah and made the final decision on the software himself.

What the board has to offer is nine databases with over 5 million names containing such vagaries as the English census from 1851, providing the name of a family living at a certain address in various counties or provinces in England at the time, or conversely, entering an address will give you the name of who lived there in 1851. Similarly, there is a British Officers' List from 1782, which contains American and British officers, because in the eyes of the throne, they were one in the same.

For our northern neighbors, there is a Canadian Census from 1871 covering the Ontario Province providing much of

the same information as the 1851 English census, and for those looking for a list of "forts" or military installations in the United States, that can be found here too. Another specialized database is that of all deaths in Kentucky since 1911 - a very stiff search to be sure.

Two databases developed at Everton, publishers of the 300+ page bi-monthly "Everton's Genealogical Helper" since 1947, are Root Cellar and Family File; the first lists individual's names with a birth date and location, the second includes the same information for a whole family. For those looking more in-depth, the Pedigree File contains entire family trees, while these are not available for instant perusal, by entering "ORDER" from the main menu and entering a corresponding number for the file you wish, a \$10 fee will be charged to your credit card and the sysops will find the file and either scan it for you to download or a copy will be mailed to you - this is the only additional charge that will be levied for services on the board besides regular subscription fees. But before you order a pedigree chart or family group sheet for \$10, check out the Gedcom database.

While a relatively new area to the system, accounting for about 100,000



*Everton's Genealogical Helper,
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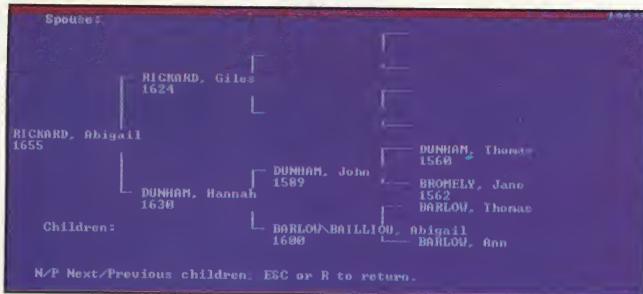


Left to right, Travis Hayes, Lee Everton and Ron Olsen of Everton Publishers

names, the Gedcom database is nevertheless the most complete database and it does include family trees and group sheets for online perusal. Searching under the surname "RICKARD" produced two names here, "Abigail" and "Giles," born in 1655 and 1624 respectively, both from Plymouth, Massachusetts. By looking up the family tree of Abigail we find she is the daughter of Giles Rickard and Hannah Dunham born in 1630, who in turn was the child of John Dunham (born in 1589) and Bailliou Barlow (born in 1600), who was the child of...well you get the idea.

The information in the database is contained in four basic fields: birth, christening, death and burial with links to additional data described above. Unique to this area is the ability of those submitting the information to the database to include up to 40 pages of notes about a person's history covering such things as their life's accomplishments, religion, physical description and occupation. Compatible with most genealogy programs available and downloadable directly into those programs, the Gedcom database is a very valuable research tool, Hayes said. A note when searching here, it is rather persnickety about how you enter information to be searched - the first letter of all first names must be capitalized and when searching by state use postal codes, i.e. Colorado would be CO in capital letters.

If you still can't find all you are looking for and you really don't want to let go of that \$10 just yet, the ability to view contact information from the



Pedigree chart found in the Gedcom database

"submitter" (the individual who submits the genealogical information to Everton's in the first place) from many of the databases on the system may be the answer. As any genealogical researcher can tell you, the ability to contact a submitter is invaluable, they may well have full pedigree charts, family group sheets or know of a multitude of other resources pertinent to your search.

Ron Olsen, who graduated with a degree in computer science last year and works at Everton as a sysop and custom programmer doing developmental work on windows genealogy programs, uses Everton's Ancestor Research Tool, **\$59.50** available from Everton Publishers to do his genealogy

research tool. But, there are 27 different conferences concerning genealogy, culled largely from Fidonet, including one in French and one in German.

The databases are smartly configured to use the same keystrokes for similar functions. A short review of database search procedures can be found in the bulletin area, or a more detailed text file, **OLS_INST.TXT** or **OLS_INST.ZIP** can be downloaded providing short-cuts in navigating the databases and other niceties of the service.

The board is home to an online card catalog containing some 35,000 titles, and has a **CDCAT** feature, allowing callers to browse through a catalog of

research, but also noted the Personal Ancestral File (PAF) as a very popular program when dealing with the genealogical industry. And that is something to note, there are no shareware programs available on the system, in fact there are very few files at all - it is primarily a database

CD ROMs with genealogical information by county and state. Likewise, the bulletin menu contains genealogical articles, questions, tips, listings of upcoming events, and there is a dictionary of genealogical terms available. Basically, as Olsen puts it, "Just about anything that has to do with genealogy - we have our fingers into."

The board is targeted as a resource for subscribers to Everton's Genealogical Helper, being such, subscriptions motivate researchers to subscribe to the service as well as the magazine. Subscriptions to Everton's Online Search are rather pricey: **\$59.50** for six months with a **\$21** per year subscription to the magazine for a total of **\$80.50**; or **\$89.50** for a six month subscription to the service alone.

For more information about the online service contact Everton Publishers, attn: Travis Hayes or Ron Olson, P.O.Box 368, Logan, Utah **84323-0368**; or Everton Publishers, attn: Travis Hayes or Ron Olson, 3223 South Main Street, Nibley, Utah 84321; **(801)752-6022** voice; **(801)752-0425** fax; **(801)752-6095** BBS. ♦

TERRAPIN STATION

Harley Davidsons and Volkswagen buses decked out with flowers and red and blue skulls, long-haired devotees wearing tie-die shirts and sandals and an interesting group of individuals that just never seem to stop spinning - these are what is traditionally thought of as the army of the dead - the Grateful Dead, the longest touring musical act in history. But, for those whose VW buses have given way to minivans, whose Harleys have become strollers, who traded pony tails for ties - there is a place where they can still revel in the phenomenon of the Grateful Dead, Nick Layman's Terrapin Station, **(914)344-2860** in Middletown, New York.

The board runs on a 486/33 SX with 8 megs of RAM under Desqview and has nearly two gigs of hard drive space with four CD ROMs. With three nodes, (one is a private node for the sysop), and Pro Board software Layman believes his to be the only multi-line board dedicated to the Grateful Dead. And if anyone would know about deadhead boards it would be Layman - he is the editor of DBN, (Dead Board News), a quarterly publication he produces with help from other connected Dead fans across the country.

With editing prowess provided by Brian Waite, sysop of Franklin's Tower, **(201)794-8437**, another Dead board, the publication currently comes in ascii text, done by Layman, and Amiga hypertext done by deadhead sysop Joseph Brooks of the Brokedown Palace, **(619)596-1974**, but is slated to be released in both a visual basic version for windows, and a Neo-book version for DOS. The visual basic version is being produced by Dead sysop, Steve McDonald, of Confusion Central, **(713)367-**



Grateful sysop Nick Layman working on the Terrapin Station

7391, while Layman is working on the Neo-book version - a shareware program allowing .GIF images and even sound files to be included along with the text of a document - I have seen the beta Neo-book version and it is really something, be sure to stop into the nearest Deadboard and download a free copy when it becomes available sometime this month. For the rest of the world this networking project is also distributed internationally via the IFDC Filgate Project courtesy of U.S.Robotics modems.

Dead Board News lists the phone numbers of all other Dead boards Layman is aware of, (eight at this time), and has a short feature story on a particular board each issue. There is also a

listing of tour dates and locations for both the Dead and Phish, a band which has made a name for itself playing Dead tunes. More important than tour dates, for many Dead fans, are the valuable set-list listings also found in DBN providing the name and order songs were played at a particular performance.

The reason the set-lists are all important to Dead fans rises from the group's allowing taping during their shows, resulting in a huge, albeit somewhat underground, industry in live Dead performance recordings. Collectors, and there are many, frequently scour the set-lists to see if they would like to swap some of their material with that of a recent performance to complete or round-out their collection. "(We) just want to know what they played and how they played," Layman said. "It's just the most important thing to a Deadhead."

The set-lists are generally available on the Terrapin Station within a couple of days after a performance, such as this one taken from the September 1994 issue of DBN: Saturday July 16, 1994, RFK stadium in Washington, D.C. - Cold Rain and Snow, Picasso Moon, Lazy River Road, El Paso, If the Shoe Fits, Ramble on Rose, When I Paint My Masterpiece, Loose Lucy, Promised Land, China Cat Sunflower, I Know You Rider, Samba In the Rain, Estimated Prophet, Crazy Fingers - followed by a drum break, The Last Time, Stella Blue and One More Saturday Night, with Liberty as an encore.

Among other Dead information, the 30+ page publication includes a discography section featuring a particular artist and all their known recordings - this issue's showcased artist was the prolific Frank Zappa and included over 60 of his albums including the titles of the songs and their play time, in addition to feature articles on various musicians and bands.

Layman's Dead experience began in Denver, Colorado on his 13th birthday,

October 9, 1977. In the midst of those awkward teenage blues and being bounced between his parents who were recently divorced, his older brother, Brent, (who had just separated from his girlfriend), had a spare ticket to a Dead show and took his little brother. Something about the time in his life and the magic in the lyrics caught hold of Layman's attention and has held it fast ever since. In fact, he doesn't believe a day has passed since that he has not listened to the sagacious crooning of Jerry Garcia - lead singer of the Dead. "Whenever Jerry sang," he said, "it was like my father talking to me."

Deadheads quickly became a surrogate family for Layman, and from the time he was 14 years old until well after he graduated college he could be counted among the multitudes following the Dead around the country, summer after summer, tour after tour, show after show. He recalls selling sandwiches in parking lots full of Dead followers and playing the saxophone just to earn enough money to buy a ticket for the next show.

After graduating from the University of North Dakota in 1983 with a degree in political science, (he originally intended to earn a Computer Science degree but found his lack of typing skills crippling), Layman's life didn't take any drastic turns. He still saved up as much money as he could during the winter and spent the summer months following the Dead around the country. In fact it wasn't until late in 1988 when he met Stephanie, a woman "who literally floored me," he said, that his wandering/touring days came to an end.

Layman married Stephanie, a singer, songwriter, author and poet in March of 1990 and soon found himself surrounded with all the responsibilities he had spent years avoiding: a wife, a mortgage and a real job as a bank officer. With these obligations the practicality of following the Dead around the country each and every summer was no longer feasible, but his

passion for the movement and the music would not be so easily quelled.

He continued attending local shows when he could and collecting Dead tapes and memorabilia which eventually led him to the front door of cyberville as we know it. Shortly after college, Layman purchased his own computer, a Tandy with a 300 baud modem and began cruising Prodigy. He stumbled onto the local BBS scene in 1992 when he noticed a local telephone number on the border of a Dead .GIF image a friend gave him. After a little over a year of calling local boards, in November of 1993, Layman opened the Terrapin Station running Power Board software.

After running the board for 10 months, Layman decided to add an additional telephone line and did so in September of 1994, when he also switched to ProBoard software, what he calls, "the best board out there for the money."

The board has 15 free file areas filled with .GIFs and text files of musical performers and groups, tape trading lists, Internet FAQs (frequently asked question lists) on Bob Dylan and Pink Floyd and even an Elvis Presley biography. Local messages contain queries about obtaining "bootleg" Dead tapes and set lists. Layman's typical response is sure I'll share what I've got for nothing, just remember me in the future and please don't call them bootlegs - since the Dead allow taping during their performances they are not technically bootleg recordings.

There are also over 20 door games on the system and it is a distribution site for several software companies including Apogee, Epic, Id, SWC, MVP and ProBoard. In addition he carries DoorNet, UtilNet and GAMENET via the Fidonet file distribution network.

While the preponderance of conferences concern the Dead, Phish or other musical groups or topics, the board also carries



New version of Dead Board News done in Neo-book for DOS

Rush Limbaugh, singer/songwriter areas, poetry, cooking, car racing, anti-virus and classified ad areas, with new conferences added at the users' requests. There are, however, no drug conferences even though the Grateful Dead are largely associated with hallucinogens of all sorts. Layman doesn't use drugs and doesn't advocate their use, but he said he won't limit callers freedom of speech, until it comes to profanity that is. There is no flaming and no trashing fellow users allowed on the system - he wants the board to have a "good, comfortable environment."

Layman began charging for advanced access in September 1994, (the ability to read and write to over 60 FidoNet and Usenet message conferences, 240 file areas and the online games of which he tries to register three new ones each

month), to limit the younger set from tying up the lines all day playing games - and it worked. Before he began charging for access he was taking 60 calls per day, today he has around 25 calls per day and that is just fine with him. Being sure that Deadheads can logon and get what they want, when they want it is his paramount concern - even though there is no charge for any Dead information on the system.

For those looking for DBN or other Dead related material the following is a list of other Deadhead boards, courtesy of DBN: Mike Kaufmann's Space Your Face (910)788-9844, Fido 1:3661/615 in New York; Brian Waite's Franklins Tower (201)794-8437, Fido 1:2604/402 in New Jersey; Joseph Brooks' Brokedown Palace (619)596-1974, Fido 1:202/1312 in California; Tim Arland's Deadline

(619)581-1384, Fido 1:202/1605 also in California; Paul Davidson's Franklins Tower (602)750-1760, Fido 1:272/52 in Arizona; Steve McDonald's Confusion Central (713)367-7391, Fido 1:106/157 in Texas; and James McGill's Conservatory (214)941-2507, Fido 1:124/9017 also in Texas.

Subscriptions to the Terrapin Station are \$10 for 6 months with full access and one hour per day online time and \$15 for a full year with full access and one hour per day online time - a time bank feature is also offered.

Terrapin Station, attn: Nick Layman, aka Wharf Rat, 217 Concord Lane, Middletown, NY 10940; (914)344-2860 BBS; (914)343-5004 BBS; Fido 1:272/51. ◆

WORKING TOGETHER IN OKLAHOMA

It seems that we most often hear of Oklahoma in reference to oil, Indians, college football and agriculture but, there is more going on in the 18th largest state in the union, much more. The settlers who first came here earned the nickname "sooners" because many tried to claim land sooner than it was legal to, but the online community here isn't too soon at all, they are right on time. Keeping the world and fellow Okies apprised of BBSs in Tulsa, Oklahoma is Linda Hargraves, who posts her valuable list on Christine and Vance Martin's Access America BBS, (918)747-2542.

Hargraves keeps the Tulsa list comprised of 118 BBSs, (encompassing 25 cities in a single area code), by having the sysops call her each and every month to reaffirm that, yes, once again, they do want to be on the list. Tulsa is 14.4 kbps country with 69 percent of systems running these modems, and only 11 percent going the 'sooner' route of 28.8 kbps. Many of the sysops who do take the few minutes to make the call to Hargraves every month are glad that they do. With 100 calls coming into the BBS every month looking for the list, (type "L" from the main menu to obtain it), she said, "I have a lot of people telling me they wouldn't get many calls if they weren't on the list."

Hargraves who worked as a retail sales clerk until she was diagnosed with several forms of arthritis 10 years ago, went back to school in 1986 at the behest of the state social services department. She stayed on the Dean's list "most of the time" while she was in school and graduated with an associates degree in computer programming and business micros in May of 1990 and also received a certificate in desk top publishing.

While in school she found herself helping fellow students with reports and it was one of these students who gave her an old modem that prompted her foray into the online world. Since she was taking a telecommunications course for extra-curricular credit, and she had an old list of area boards, she knew what to do with the modem and the BBS numbers and was calling local boards by December 1990. In January of 1991 she started keeping a list of her own, and has been doing so ever since.



Christine and Vance Martin, (foreground), and Linda Hargraves at Access American BBS

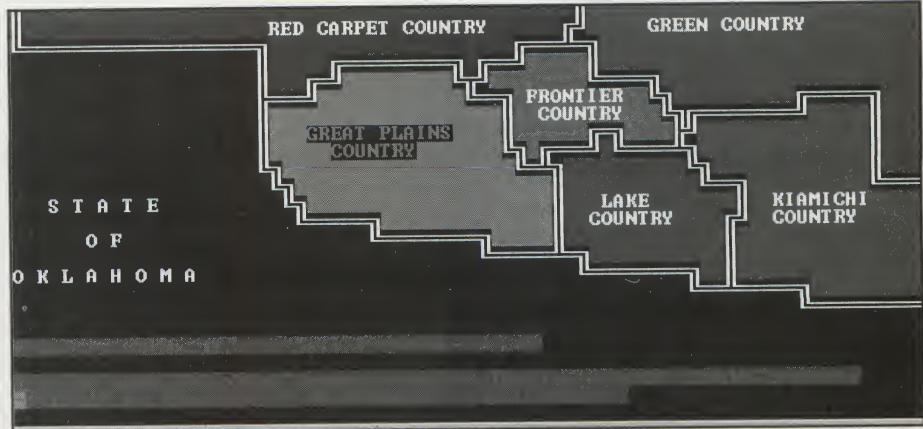
To a large extent Hargraves remains homebound, but that doesn't limit her cyber travels one bit. In addition to keeping the list on Access America, she also created and maintains a very comprehensive area on state tourist information. All of the information in the tourist center had to be typed in by hand, taking Hargraves over a year to complete but, the effort was well spent. The tourist area includes information on Museums and Galleries, Oklahoma Indian tribes, Park and Recreation Areas, Restaurants and Dining, Tours and Sightseeing, Attractions, Calendar of Events, Hotels and Motels, Hunting in Oklahoma, Lakes, Rivers and Camping, and a rough map containing information on state history including - the state bird, tree, animal, song...the list goes on. Searches are done intuitively by using keywords, such as the area you are traveling to, the type of restaurant you want to eat at, (i.e. Mexican, Italian etc.), or what it is you are hunting, (i.e. elk, pheasant, deer etc.).

This tourism section is a model for other systems to emulate. If you find yourself traveling to or through Oklahoma in the near future, you would be remiss to not stop in and look here first. And there is good news for those who live in the other seven states that border Oklahoma, Hargraves is currently working on those states too, and there is already a wealth of information available. For instance, did you know that 75 percent of all the

land mass in the United States over 10,000 feet is in Colorado? And the Colorado state dinosaur is the stegosaurus? Another hot spot is Branson, Missouri, there are more activities to do and places to stay here than in all the rest of the state, Hargraves said.

She does much of her work on a volunteer basis and looks forward to the day she will be off the state dole and working as perhaps a database programmer. For now, she garners a small cash flow from making and selling chocolate computers available on Access America and from a small area on the board titled "Computer Xpressions" where she offers a variety of computer services including: typing, data entry, mailing lists, desktop publishing, software training and others. For those who wish to show their appreciation for her thorough and diligent efforts - she collects cat memorabilia - pins, shirts, hats, figurines, etc., if it purrs she has it or would like it.

The six line board is set up on eSoft's TBBS software and was named Access America, because among other considerations, Vance said, he wanted to be at the



Map of Oklahoma found in Access America's tourist area

to pull the system forward." Coupled with the popular game, VSysop, and over 25 other games on the system, Access America is slowly shifting from an information system to an entertainment system, but there aren't any complaints from the sysops.

There are, after all, still 45,000 files on the system with 40 Usenet newsgroups and 30 Fidonet echoes for callers to

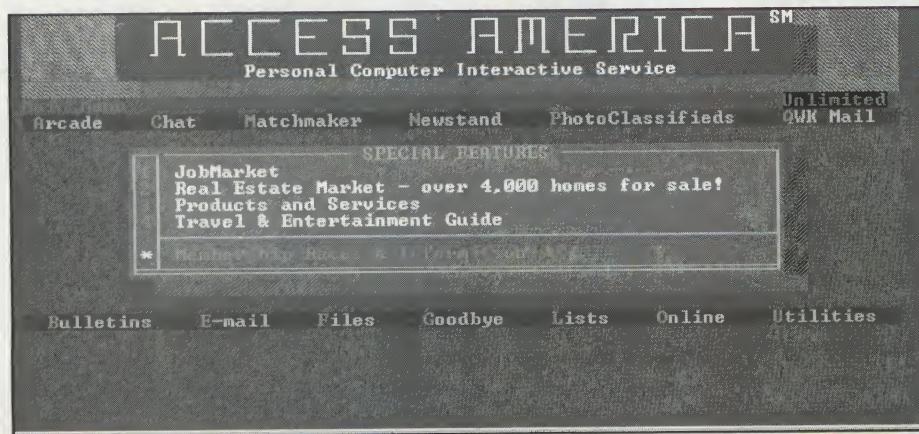
images with pictures of houses, (only a handful at this time), which include a breakdown of the rooms and bathrooms, the square footage and even the price. Other would-be online realtors would do well to look at this system as a fine example of how it should be done.

Christine does the usual maintenance of the system shepherding callers and their requests as best she can. Most recently, she finds she is pulled into chat more often than not and spends much of her online time there. She began working full time for the BBS in February of 1994, after working as a computer draftsperson for a local engineering firm. With Christine doing most of the maintenance for the system, Vance's time is freed to work on new additions.

One of his strong points is getting the latest, greatest CD ROMs online before anyone else. This isn't such a difficult task for Vance - he works for Digital Impact, manufacturers of Software-VAULT CD ROMs. "When I put a disk together," he said, "I'm thinking what will my users want."

Access America takes between 175 and 200 calls per day and has over 300 subscribers. Subscriptions are \$10 for 30 hours online time, or \$25 for 100 hours online time with no daily time limits, no upload download ratios and no restricted calling times.

Linda Hargraves, 828 S. Wheeling, Apt. 207, Tulsa, OK 74104, (918)584-3442 voice; Christine and Vance Martin, Access America BBS, 4157 S. Harvard Avenue, Suite 123, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135; Fidonet 1:170/808; (918)747-5979 voice; (918)747-2542 BBS. ♦



Welcome to Access America - High powered Oklahoma BBS

top of every BBS list. The Martins first opened the system in December of 1989 and have been running it continuously since. A 386/40 works as a file manager and also runs the system's eight CD ROMs, (two independent and a Pioneer six disk changer). Connected to a 486 DX2/66 via a Lantastic LAN (local area network), all the systems modems' are 14.4 kbps and the couple is thinking of adding still more lines sometime in the first quarter of next year.

The recent addition of eSoft's Ultra Chat module has had a lot to do with adding two more lines - one this summer and the other in October. "It's (Ultra Chat) been amazing," Vance said, "It's really starting

browse. And there would be more, but Vance notices it is difficult to carry many newsgroups with TBBS because the database has a limit of 60,000 messages. Therefore, if he is taking in say 8,000 messages per day, in just over a week, the old messages must be purged.

A good feature of the system for those looking to buy or sell a home is the Real Estate area maintained by local realtor, Craig Talkington. This is very likely the best thought out real estate area I have encountered. There is a map (ansi screen) of Tulsa streets that can be viewed online, and another map breaking down the dividing lines between high school districts. In addition, there are



TULSA

AREA CODE 918 BULLETIN BOARDS

ACCESS AMERICA,	918-747-2542	14400	MadHouse BBS	918-234-2634	14400
Abstract BBS	918-250-0078	14400	Multiplex	918-245-0364	14400
Access Denied BBS!!	918-358-5244	14400	NCR BBS	918-438-RENT	28800
Airport BBS	918-832-1793	14400	Network 23	918-622-2716	14400
American Job-Net	918-425-5627	14400	Night City, 8pm-6am	918-582-3930	14400
Another World	918-224-4279	14400	Pandora's Box	918-251-7393	14400
[Area 51] BBS	918-836-0452	14400	Pathways Multi-BBS	918-451-3799	19200
Asylum BBS	918-832-1462	28800	Phantom Computer Center	918-585-9437	2400
Back Alley BBS	918-342-1972	14400	Pirate's Chest	918-846-2527	14400
Back Woods BBS	918-757-4162	14400	RBEEZ Place	918-252-5067	14400
Bedrock BBS	918-835-6836	14400	Realms of Fantasy BBS	918-622-2067	14400
Billboard BBS	918-831-5278	14400	Relayer BBS	918-291-1811	14400
Black Gold BBS	918-272-7779	28800	Rich-Systems BBS	918-664-8227	14400
Blue Bayou BBS	918-275-4406	14400	River Rat BBS	918-298-9113	14400
BSOOM!!!	918-241-5405	28800	Rouge's Den	918-357-1765	14400
Camelot	918-749-5792	14400	Safe Haven	918-488-8644	14400
Carolina Genealogy BBS	918-836-0125	14400	Sapulpa BBS	918-247-3475	2400
Chicken Of The Sea BBS	918-747-9825	14400	Siren BBS	918-744-8312	14400
Christian Depot	918-832-1063	14400	Something Strange BBS	918-437-8217	19200
Closet BBS	918-835-6458	14400	Stephen Thompson's Place	918-254-5592	14400
Complex BBS	918-299-0487	14400	Storm Front	918-437-3549	14400
CP/M LOCAL	918-663-2775	14400	Sword, 10pm-4pm	918-455-5806	2400
CREEPERS CORNER	918-749-2235	14400	The Back-Up BBS	918-451-9131	2400
CROSS-Link BBS	918-343-0400	14400	The Cross Connection	918-747-4924	14400
Crusader BBS, 4pm-8am	918-584-6305	28800	The Dark Alley BBS	918-838-8101	14400
D. I. E. BBS	918-835-0257	2400	The Developers Network	918-451-6797	19200
Deep Secrets	918-665-2795	14400	The Doc's Inn BBS	918-234-3899	19200
Dimenet	918-582-3842	19200	The Doll House	918-266-3150	28800
Doug's Bar & Grill	918-749-1332	16800	The G. I. BBS	918-451-5035	14400
Dreamers Paradise	918-342-3976	14400	The Hub! BBS	918-627-0923	28800
Dreamscape BBS	918-357-3519	14400	The ICON BBS	918-371-0350	14400
Dutchman's Imagin.	918-664-0895	14400	The Isle of Meinibone	918-627-2926	14400
Excalibur BBS HQ	918-496-8113	19200	The Keyboard	918-836-1628	14400
Fantasha BBS	918-627-0895	14400	The Kwizinart Hatrack	918-599-0747	28800
Fawns BBS	918-664-7324	14400	The Legal Response	918-582-8323	14400
Fox One BBS	918-251-3160	14400	The Midwest Connection	918-446-2785	19200
Galaxy/Star Systems	918-835-8933	19200	The Outback	918-252-2452	14400
Gamer's Inn	918-291-0707	19200	The Party Line	918-745-0465	14400
General Failure	918-496-3688	14400	The Patriot BBS	918-756-1855	14400
G.R.O.S.S. BBS	918-582-5904	14400	The Pizza Factory BBS	918-355-3736	14400
G.S.S.	918-665-0671	14400	The Three Musketeers	918-838-8101	14400
Hailing Frequency's BBS	918-252-2236	14400	The Vineyard BBS	918-425-3945	14400
Hard Drive Cafe!	918-438-6918	14400	The Waste, 10pm-6am	918-241-8606	14400
Haven of Software	918-342-4600	14400	The Wormhole BBS	918-749-5946	28800
High Counsel BBS	918-357-1327	2400	Tub-Bucket BBS	918-266-7140	14400
Hi Maggi	918-485-8432	14400	Tulsa Chat BBS	918-622-4413	14400
Home Brewers BBS	918-299-9610	14400	Tulsa Computer Society	918-836-7664	14400
Hot & Sassie BBS	918-258-4720	14400	Tulsa County Library	918-596-1808	2400
IKE-2000	918-583-9456	28800	Tulsa Gas & Electric	918-832-1462	28800
Isle of the Avatar	918-455-8399	14400	TJC Metro	918-631-7063	9600
Junkyard BBS	918-299-1662	28800	TJC Northeast	918-631-7548	9600
Jurassic Park	918-622-7326	14400	TJC Southeast	918-631-7788	14400
K-7 Space Station	918-263-2071	14400	Tulsa Policemans BBS	918-446-8118	2400
Kinky Cavern	918-482-5048	14400	Tulsa Public Schools	918-745-6828	14400
Knight Court BBS	918-445-0202	28800	Unicorn B.B.S., 8pm-8am	918-747-3420	14400
Light Speed]]	918-299-4811	19200	Vanessa's Castle	918-451-3799	19200
Looking Glass BBS	918-838-7575	14400	Viper BBS	918-622-6916	14400
Lost in CyberSpace	918-488-0158	14400	Warped Intentions	918-455-2587	14400
Luna City BBS	918-481-6760	14400	World Line	918-587-0326	14400

T U L S A A R E A C O D E 9 1 8

The BIG List



Advertise your electronic bulletin board/online information service in Boardwatch Magazine. Let our readers know who you are and what you're doing with online technology. To order a BBS ad in the Boardwatch Classified BBS ad section, call the Boardwatch BBS at (303) 973-4222 and use our online ad entry system. In addition to standard list information, enter up to 255 characters of text describing your online service - all for \$25 per month. Master Card or Visa only.

MicroSeller BBS (201)239-0001 Verona, New Jersey since 03/83. Sysop: Mark Rapp. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 20 lines on MS-DOS with 5100 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. PCBoard 15.2 alpha site. NJ's preferred BBS for the pro 11 yrs running. Hispeed lines for easy access. Gold mine of best quality, latest files, games, info. Mail networks including Internet. Soon local access. Trial access provided. Major credit cards.

CYBERlink (201)239-5452 Verona, New Jersey since 09/24. Sysop: Andre Mutovic. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 2 lines on OS/2 with 8100 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. Over 8 Gigs of files. Many programing, and technical files available, also windows and OS/2. Over 7 thousand games. Many mail networks, including internet, will be coming. A fee is not needed for access to all files. Make your best connection yet.

Coyote Junction BBS (201)335-4885 Towaco, New Jersey since 06/94. Sysop: Joe AScione. Using WildCat 3.9 with 1 line on MS-DOS with 210 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. No fee. Presenting the best from the Southwest and Native America. Online shopping doors for all your Southwestern and Native American needs. Experience our book store music shop, chile shop and gourmet coffee shop. Many new items being added each day.

Central Core BBS (201)575-8991 Montville, New Jersey since 01/85. Sysop: Mike Cocke. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 3500 MB storage. ZyXel at 19200 bps. No fee. A BBS for grownups of all ages. Free Internet trial access. Member of ILink and BASNet echomail networks. Upload credits for messaging. Online national weather reports. Scrabble & trivia tournaments. Many technical interest files. No porn.

Afterimage Information Matrix (201)765-9090 Florham Park, New Jersey since 03/94. Sysop: Anthony Stramaglia. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Multitech at 28800 bps. \$5 Monthly fee. An amazing variety of online action. MajorNet, Infonet and Internet newsgroups. Over 5GB of CD's and files. Multiuser games such as Global Destruction and 4-player DOOM. Lush ANSI and RIP graphics. Active local and Interlink chatting. Call. Get Hooked.

SC Computer Solutions BBS (201)777-1776 Lodi, New Jersey since 08/94. Sysop: Sal Cennimo. Using WildCat 4.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 600 MB storage. Boca at 14400 bps. \$25 Half Year fee. Free online tech support for members, chat, Night Owl CdRom, 13, doors, lots of file areas to choose from.

Chat Chalet (201)791-8850 Saddle Brook, New Jersey since 04/91. Sysop: Ronnie Meier. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 24 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 877 MB storage. Practical at 14400 bps. \$10.00 Monthly fee. Where New Friends Meet (We get over 700 calls each day). Send us your picture we will make you a GIF (free).

The Garden of Eden BBS (201)839-5401 Ringwood, New Jersey since 11/92. Sysop: Frank Molino. Using WildCat 3.9 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 800 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$50 Annual fee. 18 CDs online with over 95,000 files including adult gifs. New in-house scans added weekly. Adultlinks & Fidonet Conferences. Charge cards accepted for instant access (Visa MC Amex) Over 90 online doors & Games Adultlinks, Fidonet, Doornet. Don't miss it

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Liberty BBS (708)571-0015 Chicago, Illinois since 07/92. Sysop: David Salch. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 183 lines on MS-DOS with 15360 MB storage. ZyXEL at 19200 bps. \$25 Monthly fee. Local access from Chicago & California. Nationwide chatLink, WorldLink, MailLink, MajorNet, Internet & Usenet newsgroups. Use your modem to call 800-474-1818 for local & low cost SprintNet nationwide access info. Chat, games, news, & much, much more.

The Virtual Village (708)598-1606 Oak Lawn, Illinois since 08/94. Sysop: Stan Mocek. Using TBBS 2.2 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Microcom at 28800 bps. \$39.95 Annual fee. We are new and expanding soon. USA Today, Newsbytes, PC Catalog, Fidonet. Adult chat and multiplayer games. Only the best in shareware, CD-ROMs online. Free trial period, unlimited d/l with subscriptions. M/C and Visa, immediate upgrade.

PitStar BBS (708)687-4413 Oak Forest, Illinois since 01/92. Sysop: Pady Smith. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 2000 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$25-90 Annual fee. Multi-purpose BBS with a business and finance flavor. Stock, commodities quotes, Usenet, Internet email, GIFs of missing children, current weather reports, 100+ file directories.

The Outer Edge (708)692-3487 Park Ridge, Illinois since 10/94. Sysop: Scott Teipe. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 10 lines on MS-DOS with 2600 MB storage. Prac at 28800 bps. \$0.45 Hourly fee. All ages entertainment system. Daily national chatlink, Internet access, MajorNET, NetACCESS, 4 cd-rom's online, numerous online games including the ability to play DOOM against other's online.

Cyber Investment BBS (708)717-0799 Naperville, Illinois since 01/94. Sysop: Robin Moseley. Using RoboBOARD 1.04 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. AT&T at 14400 bps. \$49.95 Annual fee. Online SVGA graphical interactive bar and candlestick market charts, investment info, futures data, & news for the investor. Chart: US/Canadian stocks, mutual funds, indexes, futures, and fut. options. Download FXTERM terminal program via zmodem.

COM ONE (708)717-9370 Naperville, Illinois since 05/92. Sysop: Craig Wells. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 6000 MB storage. Incomm at 2400 bps. \$9 Variable fee. Over 60,000 of the most current files with new files daily. 9 cds online, over 200 MajorNet & Usenet newsgroups. Internet email w/all subscriptions. Online mags & news. Adult forums, files. Chat nights & theme nights. Phone support line. Free demo time.

Chicago Syslink (708)795-4442 Berwyn, Illinois since 06/81. Sysop: George Matyaszek. Using TBBS 2.2 with 16 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$30 Annual fee. Rated G, so the entire family can call. New CD-ROM online every weekend. 100+ online games, MicroMatch Find-A-Friend, Internet Fidonet, USA Today, worldwide hub for Virtual Sysop, outdial service to other BBS's and something for all.



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AlphaOne Online (708)827-3619 Park Ridge, Illinois since 03/90. Sysop: Toby. Using TBBS 2.2 with 18 lines on MS-DOS with 8500 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$36 Annual fee. You've seen the rest-now try the best. 100,000+ files. Online stores. Chat, matchmakers, adult games 150+ conferences. Fidonet, Adult Link, GayCom. Get the most for your online \$. Call & mention this ad for free trial. For more info voice-708-827-3615

THE WILD ONION! (708)993-0461 Chicago Metro-area since 05/93. Sysop: Greg Jiede. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 50 lines on MS-DOS with 12500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 variable fee. Chicago area's premier all adult social BBS. Chat, local forums and 20+ games. 75,000+ files and GIFs online. Large adult forums area. Internet news and mail. MajorNet and Worldlink. PC Pursuit thru ILCHI. Free introductory account.

The Entrepreneur Connection (714)280-9556 Anaheim Hills, California since 01/94. Sysop: Tim R. Sills. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$60 Annual fee. If you ever wanted to start a business but didn't know how, this is the place to call. Learn step-by-step how to start & run your own business through our business software, calendar of classes & seminars, & online bus. directory. Call now for free demo.

Check Six BBS (714)362-8299 Laguna Niguel, California since 06/93. Sysop: Patrick Gost. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 1.2 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$5 Monthly fee. Latest flight simulation updates, utils, and msgs. Internet email, Usenet (air combat, flt. sim, etc.). Official customer support forums for Keyboard Commander Corp (kcc@checksix.com) and ThrustMaster (thrustmaster@checksix.com). SimNet member BBS.

Interludes BBS (714)828-7093 Cypress, California since 01/89. Sysop: Angela Duarte. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 13 lines on MS-DOS with 3000 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$4.95 Monthly fee. Local numbers available. Multiplayer games, Internet mail, Usenet, Majornet mail, nationwide chat, matchmaker, and more. Home of Humanware Systems (TPD of MajorBBS utilities). Low rates. Fast and friendly system with great users.

The Solar System (714)837-9677 Mission Viejo, California since 12/88. Sysop: Peter Guethlein. Using WildCat 4.01 with 6 lines on MS-DOS with 17000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. Awesome ANSI & RIP graphics, FidoNet 1:103/957, Internet, Intelec, MetroLink echomail & more. Space theme, over 90 live door games, very unique high quality BBS, free access available, support board: B-CRC upload file duplication scanner.

Liberty BBS (714)996-7777 Anaheim Hills, California since 07/92. Sysop: David Salch. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 183 lines on MS-DOS with 15360 MB storage. ZYXEL at 19200 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Local from 8 California area codes & Chicago. Nationwide ChatLink, WorldLink, MailLink, MajorNet, Internet & Usenet newsgroups. Use your modem to call 800-474-1818 for local & low cost SprintNet nationwide access info. Chat, games, news, & much more.

Cougar's Kingdom BBS (716)695-1937 Buffalo, New York since 06/93. Sysop: Kevin Beamer. Using GAP 6.4 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 2600 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. Support board to CK Fantasy Sports (716)695-1931, a Fantasy Football scoring service. Call today for your free brochure and sample reports. 200+ esho forums, 6 shareware CD-ROMS, online games, Regional hub to 5 .QWK message networks, free system.

Pennsylvania Onlinel (717)657-8699 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania since 08/81. Sysop: George Peace. Using TBBS 2.3 with 16 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$8.95 Monthly fee. The gathering place for everyone. Files, chat, Internet, and more. The full FidoNet backbone and filebone and Usenet newsgroups are available. Inexpensive UUCP and SLIP/PPP. ISDN. FidoNet mail, files by FTP. FTP to ftp.pao.com, Telnet to pao.com. Visa MC

Tavern BBS (717)671-3760 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania since 09/94. Sysop: Wayne Granger. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 32 lines on MS-DOS with 6500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Central Pa's newest and largest BBS offering Boardwatch and Online Access mag, tons of shareware, exciting games, featuring Cybertank, chat lounge and matchmaker. All with custom RIP graphics. Immediate access with free demo. Call now and join the club.

Cyberia (717)840-1444 York, Pennsylvania since 06/93. Sysop: Adam Viener. Using TBBS 2.2 with 15 lines on MS-DOS with 3300 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$7 Monthly fee. Receive Internet mail for free. Cyberia is a professional system offering USA Today news, Boardwatch, PC Catalog, chat, Ggmes, quality shareware, Internet, Fidonet, RIP & blind access, everyone gets a free trial account. Now available via Global Access.

The Computer Shopping Network (718)225-9568 Queens, New York since 04/92. Sysop: C Capo. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 1200 MB storage. Generic at 9600 bps. \$55 Annual fee. CSN is now one of the best places to buy multi-media items. Just go to our doors area. We offer out vol. discounts to distributors. As a paid user you will receive discounts on all item in our shopping malls. Just download lcsbbs.zip for our application.

Channel 33 BBS (718)279-1585 Bayside, New York since 06/94. Sysop: Mark Goldstein. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. Microcom at 28800 bps. \$15 Monthly fee. Info Entertainment BBS serving the Gay, Bi & Lesbian Community. Entertainment teleconference, Internet email & newsgroups, Majornet, file libraries with adult section, forums, matchmaker, interactive and single player games.

kitty's cafe BBSI (718)352-1720 Queens, New York since 08/94. Sysop: Kitty. Using WildCat 4.01 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 2GIG MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$25 Monthly fee. Adult Only BBS Alternative lifestyles, over 300 Conferences, Internet, Mystic Net, Lace Net, Match Making Service....On-Line Dating! Women Always Free!!!! Men Get FREE trial Membership, Visa, Master Card, AMEX, Checks taken online!! Talk To Kitty!

Rama One BBS (R1C) (718)366-6165 Glendale, New York since 01/94. Sysop: Tommy Brunning. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. Telepaths at 14400 bps. \$1 Hourly fee. Specializing in SVGA graphics and ASP shareware. 14 CDs full of exciting GIF images. Monthly ASP CD with the newest in shareware. Approved by the ASP. Member of the IMBBSA. Distributor for Apogee, Epic, Soleau and Software Creations. You can't lose here.

ABC Online (718)446-2157 Queens, New York since 10/93. Sysop: Michael Hajovsky. Using TBBS 2.1 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 21000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. Over 100,000 files, GIFs, online publications, news, databases, Internet email, and Usenet newsgroups, special interest forums, online games. All high speed 28,000 modems. One month free trial period. MasterCard and VISA accepted. You must be 18 or older

Quantum 2000 BBS (718)740-8411 Queens, New York since 05/94. Sysop: Michael Lee. Using WildCat 3.91 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 1200 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. No fee. Specializing in door games (over 30 online), CD-ROMs, various conferences and Adult areas. Many packages available from 6 mths to 1 year. Fidonet and Internet are coming soon. We now accept credit cards so you get instant access. Friendly Sysop.

THE ICEBOX BBS (718)793-8548 Flushing, New York since 04/88. Sysop: Darren Klein. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 6 lines on MS-DOS with 34000 MB storage. Microcom at 28800 bps. \$25 Annual fee. Internet Usenet access. Thousands of files available for download. Many online games. Chat live with users. Offline mail reader. New files daily. Many famous echo'd mail networks. Online multi-player role playing games. Visa MC accepted.

The Movie BBS, Inc. (718)939-5462 New York City, New York since 08/89. Sysop: Clarke Ulmer Jr.. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 12 lines on MS-DOS with 3500 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$15 Monthly fee 10,000 GIFs of your favorite stars! Episode guides, fan clubs, CD-ROMs for purchase, video & laserdisc info, original scans. First and largest in the world!

eVAULT Remote Backup Service (800)806-6599 Cupertino, California since 08/94. Sysop: Bob Zeidman. Using TBBS 2.2 with 1 line on MS-DOS with 2000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Protect your data from catastrophic loss. We offer remote backup over the phone - automatic, unattended, inexpensive. Schedule critical files for backup at any time using our eBACK software. For registration info and fees call (408)255-4882 (voice).

CYBERSPACE VERMONT (802)655-4108 Colchester, Vermont since 10/94. Sysop: Joe Bolton. Using MajorBBS 6.21 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 2400 MB storage. PPI at 14400 bps. No fee. Shopping mall. Vermont places to visit, things to do, products to buy. Shop for Vermont crafted products. Plan your vacation. Experience the Vermont State of mind, the Vermont mystique. Online images via Fracterm, ordering via Omni-Mall.

Dazed & Confused BBS (803)873-5797 Ladson, South Carolina since 09/91. Sysop: Robert McElwee. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 8 lines on MS-DOS with 17000 MB storage. Supra at 28800 bps. \$40 Annual fee. 24 CD ROMs, 80 online games, contests for free access and merchandise, free Internet e-mail, RIME, International Genealogy Association, tons of Doom files, Inter-sports Network, friendly users. Come see what you've been missing. Visa, MC, Amex.

Time Out! BBS (804)596-2131 Newport News, Virginia since 06/94. Sysop: Mark Solomon. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$45 Annual fee. Internet email and Usenet \$45 per year. Relaynet(tm) International Message Exchange (RIME). Fido to come soon. Get the latest and best Doom editors, etc, and all shareware. Many current CD-ROMs, and plenty of disk space. I want to be your favorite BBS.

The Basement (810)254-6436 Detroit, Michigan since 06/94. Sysop: John Wesley Jr. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 2000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$50 Annual fee. The Basement is growing as we speak. Many CD's to choose from. Adult, shareware, hacking, occult. Over 30 online games, multinode chat, instant upgrades. Subscriptions include unlimited time and downloads for less than \$1 a week. Visa, Mastercard, AMEX.

SHARE Warehouse (810)412-8177 Clinton Township, Michigan since 01/94. Sysop: Rick Wadowski. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 4 lines on MS-DOS with 5500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$35 Annual fee. Free 7 day trial. 100,000+ files on 24 CDROM's. No ratio/byte limits. Over 1300 conferences with 25,000 new msgs/day and 50-75 new files/day from our satellite downlink. Member Fido, RIME. We never ask for uploads.

Mercury Opus (813)321-0734 St. Petersburg, Florida since 09/88. Sysop: Emery Mandel. Using PCBoard 15.2 with 10 lines on MS-DOS with 12000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$30 Half Year fee. Huge message area, over 2000 conferences, 100,000 quality Amiga, Mac, DOS, Windows, OS/2 and adult files with new files daily, 10+ networks including Internet and Usenet, games, chat, matchmaker, fax gateway, BBS lists, instant access via credit card.

A to Z Classifieds (813)726-8088 Clearwater, Florida since 07/93. Sysop: Ed Marquardt. Using TBBS 2.2 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 210 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. No fee. Classified Ads and information. Sell your car, your boat, your house, or any other item. Advertise your business. Look for employment opportunities, and much more.

BBShare! (813)758-3223 Sarasota, Florida since 07/91. Sysop: Kevin Pulford. Using WildCat 4 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$7.50 Monthly fee. 14 CD-ROMS online of the latest virus free programs, many game doors, world wide echo conferences. Subscribe online for immediate access. Trial accounts are available. Many new items added monthly.

CyberSpace DataBase (813)796-5627 Clearwater, Florida since 09/82. Sysop: Steve Sanders. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 10000 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. \$50.00 Annual fee. Everything for Windows, sound cards, VGA games, DTP, HAM Radio, AMSAT, adult GIFs, utilities, applications, spreadsheets, more. 12 CD-ROMs and big hard drives. 80,000+ files. Hi-resolution GOES weather satellite photos daily. V.Fast Class modems.

FL-NET! (813)985-9985 Tampa, Florida since 08/94. Sysop: Richard Bryant. Using RoboBoard 1.04 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 1200 MB storage. OMRON at 14400 bps. No fee. Dedicated to supporting living, working and tourism in the state of Florida. Forums on education, real estate, business, technology, health & fitness and tourism. No file ratios, super VGA graphics interface avail. Call 813-989-2136 for advertising info.

Terminal Junior High (814)26-5787 Warren, Pennsylvania since 08/94. Sysop: John Stewart. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 1000 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$6 Hourly fee. Files, forums, and chat designed by and for young people, ages ten to sixteen. Find out about online communications, beginners and veterans. Want help with your math or your term paper? Want to meet new people from around the world? Find it all here.

The Serial Port (817)431-2342 Keller, Texas since 03/82. Sysop: Stu Jackson. Using TBBS 2.2 with 16 lines on MS-DOS with 11000 MB storage. ZYXEL at 16800 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. We've moved from Michigan and love Texas. Come on by for a few files or some live chat between users. We have over 11 Gig of PD and adult files available. Ham radio and sat sections too. Games, mail, fun. Visa, MC, Discover for instant access.

The Emporium BBSI (817)543-4250 Arlington, Texas since 10/88. Sysop: Henry Buchanan. Using Remote Access 2 with 20 lines on MS-DOS with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$75 Annual fee. One of the largest collections of adult files. Over 17,000 adult files online. Adult games online, with online chat and messages. Adults only. Must be 21 years of age or older. Immediate adult access w/valid credit card. VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX.

Prospects (817)588-2880 Arlington, Texas since 03/94. Sysop: Franz Gletscher. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 230 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. D/FW Metro number access. Confidential online employment service. No fee to applicants. Upload your anonymous electronic resume, and control your job search from your keyboard. Receive e-mail notification of employers interested in you. Login today.

Panasia BBS (818)569-3740 Glendale, California since 05/89. Sysop: William Padilla. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 425 MB storage. US Robotics at 28800 bps. No fee. We offer Internet e-mail access and carry all conferences for the Intelec, ThrobNet, and iLink echomail networks. Access is free. Proof of age required for adult access. Modest but high quality file area. There are no ratios, and access is free.

The Wine Connection BBS (818)718-5994 Winnetka, California since 11/93. Sysop: Paul Sennett. Using TBBS 2.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS with 250 MB storage. Zoom at 14400 bps. No fee. Your best connection for Fine Wine. Communicate with other wine enthusiasts about fine wines you want to buy or sell and also about many other wine topics. Glossary of wine terms, grape varieties, California's premium wineries, and much more.

Yolanda's Wonderland BBS (901)377-5715 Memphis, Tennessee since 10/92. Sysop: Chris DeClerk. Using Remote Access 2.02 Pro with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 7000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 Bi-Monthly fee. If you like 400 Echo message conferences, 20 online games, and over 6.2 gigabytes of files to download, you won't be disappointed. Adults have 2.4 gigs of files, half dedicated to Gay men. Node 1 is free, Nodes 2 & 3 are 28.8 VFC HST modems. Call today.

DRAGON KEEP INTERNATIONAL (904)375-3500 Gainesville, Florida since 01/87. Sysop: Dragon. Using WildCat 6.21 with 50 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$.25 Hourly fee. Realtime multi-player games, 24 Hr live chat featuring Global Chatlink every night at 10PM. Over 50,000 files, 6 CD-ROM's, MajorNet, NetAccess. Full Internet access (Telnet/IRC/FTP). Telnet to dkeep.com (198.79.54.10) Instant access w/credit card.

The Gay Blade (905)882-4800 Toronto, Ontario since 01/90. Sysop: Richard Kamus. Using TBBS 2.2 with 20 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. Zyxel at 19200 bps. \$20 Hourly fee. The Gay Blade provides online chatting, online games, and message bases of interest to those living an alternate lifestyle. Networks include GayCom, La'Net, Studsnet and Internet. A wide variety of membership alternatives are available.

Alaska Information Cache (907)373-3205 Wasilla, Alaska since 01/94. Sysop: Bob Southwick. Using MajorBBS 6.21f with 3 lines on MS-DOS with 345 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Alaska online travel info, 1000+ travel related services, fishing info, camping info, online shopping for publications and videos about Alaska. Forums on Alaskan topics, MajorNet, NetAccess, WorldLink. List keeper of travel BBSs.

Programmer's Resource Center (908)355-9298 Elizabeth, New Jersey since 04/94. Sysop: Robert Villar. Using WildCat 3.9 with 2 lines on MS-DOS with 540 MB storage. Boca at 14400 bps. \$5 Monthly fee. This BBS caters to programmers and professionals. Thousands of source code files and tools to make life easier. On your first call, mention that you read Boardwatch and you get a Free 6 month subscription. Games and educational files available.

Isle-Net (908)495-6996 North Middletown, New Jersey since 10/84. Sysop: Dan Srebnick. Using TBBS 2.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS with 2000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$45 Annual fee. Internet mail, Usenet newsgroups, erotic fantasies written by members. Free chat on your first call. Challenging games, lots of files to download. Stop by and have your Tarot cards read online. We do it better because we've done it since 1984.

INSTANT ACCESS (908)888-3959 Hazlet, New Jersey since 01/91. Sysop: Richard Camba. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 10 lines on MS-DOS with 25000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$6 Monthly fee. Progressive adult & non adult file/msg areas. With over 22 gig of files & 1800+ satellite linked message areas to suit all lifestyles. Full Internet access. Telnet us at instbbs.camba.com. Instant access via credit card or TABS - free trial access.

NightVision (909)369-6556 Riverside, California since 11/93. Sysop: John Williams. Using WildCat 4 with 16 lines on MS-DOS with 8000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$69 Annual fee. Free memberships available. Call for details. Monthly amateur GIF contests, Internet e-mail and newsgroups, massive library of adult GIF's and text files, group and private chat, online games, adult networks, matchmaker database.

For Adults Only Bulletin Board System (916)962-3973 Sacramento, California since 01/88. Sysop: Dale DeBord. Using Oracomm-Plus 7.1 with 17 lines on MS-DOS with 3000 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. \$6 Monthly fee. Sacramento's largest and friendliest Adult chat, files system. Adult message bases, chat, GIF, GL, DL, FLI, text and game files. Free member GIFs. Referred by Adult BBS Guidebook, Cybersex, Playboy. Free 3-hour trial period. Download on first logon.

Entertainment Club BBS (919)544-7811 Research Triangle Park, North Car. since 04/94. Sysop: Brian Womack. Using WildCat 4 with 4 lines on OS/2 with 10500 MB storage. Zyxel at 19200 bps. \$12 Annual fee. 1500+ file areas (40,500+ files 8 CDROMs updated quarterly) 700+ message conferences, Internet email news, FidoNet, etc, 50+ registered multi-user games, color scanning, matchmaking connection (doors, parties), will add areas at user request. Bargain.

Micro Message Service (MMS) (919)779-6674 Raleigh, North Carolina since 10/82. Sysop: Michael M. Stroud. Using TBBS 2.2 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 12000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$45 Annual fee. NC's # 1 online info service support for PC, Mac, Amiga and Atari ST. Hundreds of new files added weekly. Expert leaders for each SIG. Authorized eSoft dealer, system design and TDBS programming. Give your online system a leading edge, call us first.



BOARDWATCH

List of BBS List Keepers

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.



BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
New Jersey BBS's	Scott Drake	T.E.R.N. BBS	(201)399-4772
Connecticut AC 203	Kevin Brook	Creative Edge BBS	(203)743-4044
BBS With Handicapped Focus	Bill McGarry	Handicap News BBS	(203)926-6168
Known Networks	Victor Laking	Generic BBS	(204)475-5199
Manitoba, Canada List AC 204	Victor Laking	Generic BBS	(204)475-5199
Seattle AC 206/West Washington	Bob Dinsel/Nanook	Eskimo North	(206)367-3837
Tacoma Washington AC 206	Richard Langford	AmoCat BBS	(206)566-1155
Puget Sound Area	Art Tomlin	Orion Station	(206)675-0565
Kitsap County Washington	Michael Schuyler	Quicksilver BBS	(206)780-2011
Maine 207	Scott R. Bodeen	Street Corner BBS	(207)442-0997
Modesto, CA BBS List	Chris Mitchell, "Gomba"	Anything Goes	(209)491-0782
Central California AC 209	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Zen Den Systems	(209)675-8436
San Antonio TX (AC 210) BBS	Donna Murrell	Main Complex BBS	(210)658-8009
Graphical User Interface BBS	David Shapiro	The Gooey (GUI) BBS	(212)876-5885
96 List - 9600+bps BBS	Ken Sukimoto	Downtown BBS	(213)484-0260
Employment BBS's	George Smith	Executive Connection	(214)306-3393
Dallas/Ft. Worth BBS List	Mark Elson/Mike Shockley	Blues Cafe	(214)638-1181
Open Access UNIX Site List	Phil Eschallier	LGNP1 (login:BBS)	(215)348-9727
Cleveland Area 216	Jim Barry	Flip Flop	(216)951-9134
Educational BBSs	Joe McIntosh	KSI Public BBS	(219)626-2150
Educational and Indiana BBS	Joe McIntosh	KSI Public BBS	(219)626-2150
Conservation/Nature BBS List	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Coin of the Realm	(301)585-6697
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	Stan Staten	3WINKs BBS	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS	Richard Barth	HEX BBS	(301)593-7357
Desktop Publishing BBS	Frank Atlee	Infinite Perspective	(301)924-0398
Delaware AC 302	Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn	Talk Radio BBS	(302)429-7667
Colorado AC 303/719	Willis Morrow	Big Boy's BBS	(303)458-3832
Cave Exploration BBSs	Douglas L. Moore II	The CatEye BBS	(304)592-3390
South Florida Area 305/407	Eric Thav	Silicon Beach BBS	(305)474-6512
Southern California	Mike Hefferman	SOCAL Corner	(310)422-7942
California AC 310	Jim Walton	Illusions BBS	(310)804-3324
Detroit Area 313	Horst Mann	Tony's Corner	(313)754-1131
St. Louis AC 314	Beth Brooks	Fire Escape's Dir	(314)741-9505
ASP BBS Member List	Richard Holler	The RoadHouse BBS	(317)784-2147
Engineering Related BBS	Arthur Petrelka	Computer Plumber	(319)337-6723
Rhode Island Area 401	Mike Labbe	Eagle's Nest	(401)732-5292
Alberta AC 403	Stephen Decarie	T-8000	(403)246-4487
Calgary Alberta AC 403	Jeremy Birkett	The Quantum BBS	(403)252-5119
Atlanta Area 404	Online Atlanta Society	OASIS	(404)627-2662
Atlanta Area 404	Rodney Aloia	The INDEX System	(404)924-8472
Montana Area	Jay Michalik	Valley Light BBS	(406)273-6399
Searchlight BBS Systems	Chad Payne	Montana MediaNet	(406)549-6325
Orlando BBS List AC 407	Lenny Lacuy	Infinite Space Onlin	(407)856-0021
San Francisco Bay Area	Mark Shapiro	BABBA BBS	(408)946-8592
Baltimore BBS Area 410	Brad Blase	Silver Streak BBS	(410)683-0300
Pittsburgh AC 412	Chas Stokes	Zuul's Catacombs	(412)264-9787
National BBS List	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	Ameriboard	(412)349-6862
Milwaukee Area 414	Mark G.	The Castle	(414)327-5085
North America Nudist List	Patrick O'Brien	Natural Connection	(414)426-2110
Toledo Ohio Area 419/313	Ryck Zarick	Toledo's TBBS	(419)475-2241
Arkansas Area 501	Bob Underdown	The Blue & The Grey	(501)444-8420
Louisville KY and South IN	Tim Arnold	Dance of Shiva BBS	(502)893-6360
Portland Oregon BBS	Lisa Gronke	DawGone Disgusted	(503)297-9145

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
New Orleans AC 504	Darin Celino	Southern Belle BBS	(504)455-9488
New Mexico Area Code (505)	Dan Kiehl	MDC Computers BBS	(505)434-0258
Apogee/ID/Software Crtns List	Dan Linton	Software Creations	(508)368-7139
PCBoards on Internet	Ruben Melo	ponyXpress BBS	(508)587-7669
Worcester MA AC (508)	Jim Metzler	Miwok Village BBS	(508)754-6512
Corpus Christi	James Cordani	Treasure Island	(512)241-8358
Austin Area BBS List AC 512	John Foster	Camel's Back BBS	(512)243-0077
Selected BBS	Joseph Caplinger & Son	J&J's BBS	(513)236-1229
AC 516 Free Shareware BBS	Harold Stein	Long Island Exchange	(516)271-5303
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Wolverine BBS	(517)695-9952
Phoenix AC (602)	John Mendivil	Majestic Royalty BBS	(602)278-1651
Phoenix AC (602)	Sue Widemark	Cheese Whiz BBS	(602)279-0793
Cochise County Arizona	Kevin McCrory	The Commo Shack BBS	(602)452-0587
Arizona and Southwest U.S.	Michael	BBSouthWest	(602)820-7861
New Hampshire BBS's	Mike Maggi	Marios Birdhouse	(603)226-0467
Victoria/Vancouver AC 604	Mark Morley	Island Net	(604)477-5163
Kentucky AC (606)	Jon Hagee	Kentucky Explorer	(606)271-1451
Wisconsin 608	Jim Wargula	JW-PC Dataflex.HST	(608)837-1923
New Jersey AC 609	Dave Schubert	The Casino BBS	(609)485-2380
New Jersey Area 201/609/908	Wayne R. Morton	Praedo BBS	(609)953-0769
Medical Issues BBS	Edward Del Gross	Black Bag	(610)454-7396
Job Search and Inet hot list	Ward Christman	Online Opportunities	(610)873-7170
Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	Barry Watson	Abiogenetic BBS	(612)774-8454
Apple II BBS	Mike Schecket	Way Out	(614)436-4846
Tennessee AC 615/901	unknown	SPDA Info Service	(615)952-5638
Business/Professional BBS	Dennis Hauser	Delight The Customer	(616)662-0393
Female Sysops	Brenda Donovan	The Pacific Rim	(619)278-7361
San Diego, CA AC 619	Tom Grigg	ComputorEdge	(619)573-1675
San Diego AC 619	Joe Nicholson	General Alarm	(619)669-0385
Apple II BBS with Internet con	Morgan Davis	pro-sol	(619)670-5379
Virginia AC 703/804	Eddie Gebhard	PC Power House	(703)348-1423
OS/2 BBS Systems	Pete Norloff	OS2/Shareware BBS	(703)385-4325
Genealogy Related BBS	Richard A. Pence	NGS-CIG	(703)528-2612
Charlotte, NC AC 704	Blaine Schmidt	Moobasi Optics, Ink	(704)541-9842
Indigenous People BBSs	Arthur McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Black Run/Oriented BBS	Arthur "Rambo" McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Chicago	Peter Anvin	Royal Swedish Viking	(708)491-9036
Gay & Lesbian BBS List	Billy Kennedy	Risqilly BBS	(708)495-6609
Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	Rex Chadwell	ChicAAgo Hangar	(708)980-1613
Houston Area 713	David E. Wachenschwanz	Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875
Korean BBSs	Wayne Jeong	Korea America Online	(714)449-9373
Area Code 715 BBS's	Corey Koltz	YES It's another BBS	(715)345-7132
Rochester NY AC 716	Tracy Logan	Logan's Run	(716)328-2914
RIP BBS Listing	Mario Mueller	Antarctica BBS	(717)755-2440
717 AC BBS Listing	Adam Viener	Cyberia	(717)840-1444
Vermont BBS's	Russ Boyce	Computer Ser. of Ver	(802)334-7976
Ecology/Conservation BBS	Bob Chapman	EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389
Central California Area 805	Larry Honore	His Board	(805)652-1478
Wildcat! BBS	Jim Harrer	Wildcat! HQ	(805)873-2400
Oahu Hawaii	Brent Davis	Land's End BBS	(808)499-2527
Technical Support BBS List	Gary Barr	Digicom BBS	(812)479-1310
Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813	Emery Mandel	Mercury Opus	(813)321-0734
Kansas City Area 816/913	Bob Zumbrunnen	PC-HELP BBS	(816)331-4703
Dalls Fort Worth BBS List	Mark Robbins	Second Sanctum	(817)467-1175
Occult BBS	Phil Hansford	Mysteria	(818)353-8891
Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS	John Rigali	Night Gallery	(818)448-8529
Texarkana BBS List	Rodney Payne	Internet Connection	(903)793-7173
Durham Region-Ontario Canada	Shawn Berry	Seventh Dimension	(905)571-6052
Alaska AC 907	Patti Johnson	Alaska Pirate Soc.	(907)248-9364
Travel Related BBSs	Robert Southwick	AK Information Cache	(907)373-3205
Darwin National USBBS List	Bob Breedlove	Bob's BBS	(916)929-7511
OS/2 Related BBS	Dave Fisher	LiveNet 1:170/110	(918)481-5715
Tulsa Oklahoma Area BBS List	Linda Hargraves	ACCESS AMERICA	(918)747-2542
Raleigh NC Area Code 919	Mike Stroud	Micro Message Svc.	(919)779-6674
National ISDN BBS list	Ken Morrison	Digital Velocity BBS	(919)992-3059
Republic of South Africa	Henk Wolsink	Catalyst BBS	27-41-34-1122
Switzerland BBS List	Cesar Keller	The Warehouse BBS	41-1-492-5157

BOARDWATCH

Guide to Electronic Bulletin Boards and The Internet

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES

December 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION	
				QUEENS, NY	NEW YORK ONTARIO, EGLIN AFB, FL
ABC On-Line	(718)446-2157	21 Gigs online, TBBS, Internet, Fidonet, Entertainment, News	Michael Hajovsky	Queens, NY	
Ability Online Support Network	(416)650-5411	Support BBS for sick children and young adults.	Brian Hillis, Dr. Arlette Lefebvre	North York Ontario,	
ADA 9X Project Bulletin Board	(800)232-9925	ADA Programming Language Revisions and News	Chris Anderson/Susan Carlson	Englin AFB, FL	
ADA Information Clearinghouse	(703)614-0215	Information on ADA Programming Language/Military Specs	Department of Defense	Washington, DC	
Advanced Data Services Inc.	(301)695-9116	22 line PCBoard with 5.5 GB of Files	Blaine Brodka	Frederick, MD	
Alamo PC Organization	(210)496-5558	Numerous Files, Info	Robert Schoenert	San Antonio, TX	
Albuquerque ROS	(505)299-5974	36000 files/USA Today/Tradewars/Online Games	Steven Fox	Albuquerque, NM	
America's Suggestion Box	(516)471-8625	BBS Devoted to Collecting and Distributing Consumer Feedback	Joseph G. Jerszynski	Ronkonkoma, NY	
American Cybernetics BBS	(602)968-1082	Multi-Edit Product Support BBS	American Cybernetics	Tempe, AZ	
AMUG Preferred BBS	(602)553-0721	Support for Mac users, 15,000 files, Conferences	Arizona Macintosh Users Group Inc.	Phoenix, AZ	
ANARC BBS	(913)345-1978	World Radio/TV Handbook - Short Wave Freq Lists/Scheds.	Assoc. of North American Radio Clubs	Shawnee Mission, KS	
APCUG - GlobalNet	(408)439-9367	Association of PC User Groups - Over 2000 UG officers	Paul Curtis/APCUG	Scotts Valley, CA	
Applied Modeling Research RBBS	(919)541-1325	Environmental Protection Agency Atmospheric Models	William Peterson/EPA	Hurdle Mills, NC	
Aquila BBS	(708)820-8344	6 GB 25 Nodes Fidonet/Interlink/Metronet/MCe IJCHI Graphics	Kevin Bentzen/Steve Williams/Doug Bell	Aurora, IL	
Argus Computerized Exchange	(617)674-2345	Multiline Community Chat Service - Restaurant Review dbase	Pam Morrison	Lexington, MA	
AST Technical Services BBS	(714)727-4723	Superb support system for AST Computer Products	AST Research Inc.	Irvine, CA	
AT&T Support BBS	(908)769-6397	Support for PC 6300 and Other AT&T PC Models	American Telephone/Telegraph PC Division	Plainfield, NJ	
ATI Support BBS	(905)764-9404	Support for AT Modems and Video Cards	ATI Technologies	Scarborough, ONTARIO	
Atlanta Information Systems BBS	(404)939-1248	Natl echomail conferences, Internatconferences, files	Rodney Aloia	Tucker, GA	
Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875	Home of Houston Area 713 BBS list, Connect Magazine	Connect Communications Co	Houston, TX	
Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875	Houston Area BBS list and Connect! Magazine	David Wachenschwanz	Houston, TX	
Atr BBS	(903)758-2784	4 Gigs Online All Fidonet Message areas Over 200 door games	Walter Cade	Longview, TX	
Attention to Details	(714)681-6221	Utilities/ASP/Patriot/Util/Protocols	Clint Bradford	Mira Loma, CA	
Audiofile Network	(818)988-0452	High-end Audio Components, Music, Video Reviews	Guy Hickey/Quatre Speakers	Van Nuys, CA	
Automobile Consumer Services	(513)624-0552	New Car Pricing Reports - Used Car Value Reports	Automobile Consumer Services Inc.	Cincinnati, OH	
AviTechnic	(301)252-0717	Software Distribution System - BBS Utilities	Tom Hendricks	Lutherville, MD	
BBS America	(214)680-3406	Home of DFW Online Electronic Newsletter	Jay Gaines	Richardson, TX	
BCS BBS	(213)962-2902	Los Angeles' First Super BBS Under Development	Jim Lee	Los Angeles, CA	
BCS IBM BBS	(617)964-2540	IBM PC Topics - TBBS - Internet Mail	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston, MA	
BCS Info Center BBS	(617)621-0882	General Topics - TBBS - Internet Mail	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston, MA	
BCS Mac BBS	(617)864-0712	Macintosh Topics - Firstclass BBS Software	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston, MA	
Beach Board BBS	(813)337-4950	Over 100 online games - Internet Mail - 8 lines - 48000 fbs	Dave Ward	Fort Myers, FL	
Beyond Eternity	(310)371-3734	Home of EEEKI! Bits - Weekly Electronic Trivia Magazine	J. Black/K. Taghadosi	Torrance, CA	
Beyond the Realm	(805)987-5506	200+ message areas 60+ file areas Fidonet VNet Adult Topics	Lee Ladisky	Camarillo, CA	
BMUG BBS	(510)849-2684	Support for Macintosh owners - files - conferences.	Berkeley Macintosh Users Group	Berkeley, CA	
Boardwatch Magazine Online Info	(303)973-4222	Distribution Service for USA Today/Boardwatch/Newsbytes	Boardwatch Magazine	Littleton, CO	
Book BBS	(215)657-6130	Information on 2000 Computer Books - 800 order number	Business & Computer Book Store	Willow Grove, PA	
Book Stacks Unlimited	(216)694-5732	200,000 Book Titles Database - Online Ordering	Charles Slack	Cleveland, OH	
Borland Download BBS	(408)431-5096	Utilities, Macros, Programming Examples for Borland Products	Borland International/Mike Fitz-Enz	Scotts Valley, CA	
Botnay Bay EIS	(603)431-7229	20 GB of Files - Adult areas - BBS Lists	Myles Bratter	Portsmouth, NH	
Boundary Waters BBS	(218)365-6907	Canoe Trips/Resorts/Fishing/Wilderness in Minnesota	Gary Knopp/infoNorth	Ely, MN	
Bruce's Bar & Grill	(203)365-3761	24-line Social System - Chat - Games - Downloads	Bruce Lomasky	West Hartford, CT	
Bryant Software	(303)733-0773	Support & Demo of Bryant Software & BBS Products	Alan Bryant	Denver, CO	
C.A.R.L. Library Service	(303)758-1551	Citations to 4 Million Texts in Colorado Library System FREE	Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries	Denver, CO	

CAD/Engineering Service	(615)822-2539	Computer Aided Design File Distribution Network 1:116/32	Stan Bimson	Hendersonville, TN
Canada Remote Systems	(416)213-6003	23GB/400000+ files, 3500 Confs, USENET, IBM/Amiga/Mac	Neil Fleming/Jud Newell	Mississauga, ONTARIO
Capital PC User's Group BBS	(301)738-9060	One of the oldest PC User's Groups - 5500 members	Capital PC Users Group/Roger Fajman	Rockville, MD
Career Connections BBS	(417)917-1217	Hi tech jobs and career positions	Sandhya Dave	Los Altos, CA
Castle Tabby 10/7/42	(908)988-0706	Home of TABBY Fidonet Interface Program for Apple Macintosh	Michael E. Connick	Bradley Beach, NJ
Caverns of the Abyss	(405)482-2980	4 Gigs Online CD Rom's	Shannon Graham	Altus, OK
CBBS/Chicago	(312)545-8086	First Electronic Bulletin Board - Since 2/16/78	Ward Christensen/Randy Suess	Chicago, IL
CD Connection	(408)985-8982	90000 Compact Disks, Order Online (telnet:cdconnection.com)	Noel Stookey (Paul of Peter,Paul & Mary)	Blue Hill Falls, ME
Celebration Station	(207)667-0800	Adventure Games, Chat, and Sigs - Children	Central Point Software Inc.	Beaverton, OR
Central Point Software	(503)690-6650	PC Tools - Central Point Anti-virus support board	Brian Miller/Tess Heder	Cambridge, MA
Channel 1	(617)354-8873	70-line PCBoard - 8 GB Files - Internet - 1000's msg. confs.	George Matyaszek	Berwyn, IL
Chicago SysLink	(708)795-4442	Special Interest Areas for Ferret Pet Owners.TRS80/Aviation	Randy Suess	Chicago, IL
Chinet	(312)283-0559	UNIX System offering Internet Mail	John Lundell	Grand Forks, ND
City Lites PCBoard	(701)772-5399	9 GB files, Rimenet, Internet, FidoNet, ASP, Online Orders	Troy Butzlaff	Diamond Bar, CA
City Online	(909)860-1Line	City Government BBS Rip/Internet & more	Bill Kennon	San Diego, CA
Classified Connection BBS	(619)566-7347	Gifly Girls - Nude GIF Images of the Girl Next Door	Case Western University/AT&T/Ohio Bell	Cleveland, OH
Cleveland Freenet	(216)368-3888	Cleveland City Info/Public Library - Free Internet Mail Box	Harold Lucas	Cleveland, OH
Cloud Nine	(713)855-4382	15 meg, 30 Nodes	Dennis Di Toro	Houston, TX
Club Infinity BBS	(619)726-8878	Missing children, Wanted persons, On-line shopping, Mail	Terry Rune/Dave McClaugage	Fairlawn, CA
Colorado Connection	(303)423-9775	Breeding, Raising, Taming, Exotic Birds	Klaus Dimmerl	Anaqua, CO
Community News Service (CNS)	(719)520-5000	News and Entertainment - 17 Lines Community Focus	Wayne Gregori	Colorado Springs, CO
Compact Audio Disk Exchange	(415)824-7603	Buy/Sell/Trade Compact Audio Disks Online	Nick Anis Jr.	San Francisco, CA
Computer Business Services	(714)396-0013	Book/Publishing Consultant Nick Anis' BBS	Nick Anis Jr.	Diamond Bar, CA
Computer Business Services	(909)396-0014	Book/Publishing Consultant John C. Dvorak & Nick Anis' BBS	Milford P. Webster	Salisbury, MD
Computer Garden	(301)546-1508	Treasure Hunting - Metal Detectors - Online Catalog	Computing Canada Newspaper	Willowdale, ONTARIO
Computing Canada Online	(416)497-5263	Adjunct to Excellent Canadian PC Newspaper	Digital Communications Associates	Roswell, GA
CrossTalk Communications BBS	(404)740-8428	Product Support for Crosstalk for Windows/MK4/XVI	Pete White	Holliston, MA
Cul-de-Sac Bar & Grill	(508)429-1784	Multiline Service - Ham Radio - Humor - TDBS Applications	CyberStore Online Info. Systems Inc.	New Westminster, BC
CyberStore - a COCONET BBS	(604)526-3676	All lines to v.32bisl/v.42/v.42bis. CyberTools for BBS'es	DAK Industries/Tom Krogh	Canoga Park, CA
DAK Online Resource Center	(818)15-7153	DAK Mail Order Catalog - Breakmakers - CD ROMS - Computers	Thomas E. Dell/Darkside International	Mountain View, CA
Dark Side of the Moon	(408)245-7726	Home of WAFFLE, Unix UUCP BBS Software for DOS and UNIX	Bob Oyler	Lawrence, KS
Data Bank	(913)842-7744	Information HQ, Support Board, Net-Mail & Files	Matthew Schoen/Delta Enterprises	Los Angeles, CA
Data Core BBS	(310)842-6880	25 line Major BBS	Dallas Remote Imaging Group/Jeff Wallach	Carrollton, TX
DataLink RBBS System	(214)394-7438	Weather Satellite Imaging, NOAA Satellite Tracking-AMSAT-NA	Kevin Snively	Nashville, TN
Dawg*Star	(615)385-4268	ANSI Art Club 1:116/29	Wayne Duval	White Rock, BC
Deep Cove BBS	(604)536-5885	16 line TBBS, 3500 MBytes files for IBM, MAC, Amiga	James Craig	Denver, CO
DEMO Link	(303)220-0328	Free Demo Downloads of Quattro Pro/Lotus Magellan/More	University of Colorado Health Science	Denver, CO
Denver Exchange, The 10/4/909	(303)458-1227	28 Lines Adult BBS/Internet/files/Chat/Games/Publications	Jerry and Robin McCarthy	Evanston, IL
Denver Free-Net	(303)270-4865	Free Community Online Service - Ham Info	Mark Thompson	Littleton, CO
Digicom	(812)479-1310	Home of Tech Support BBS List, Online Magazines, 1.7 Gigs	Steve Perlo	Risch Triangle Park, NC
Digital Logic Systems	(303)347-2921	Rip screens, Internet e-mail, USA Today, Newsgroups	Mike Simmons	Clarksville, TN
Digital Velocity BBS	(919)992-0407	ISDN BBS. Technical support for ISDN and BBS's.	Chris Duke	Palm Springs, CA
Distant Mirror BBS	(615)648-1782	Free Access BBS	Barry Macdonald/Vancouver Board of Ed	San Diego, CA
DNS	(619)864-1468	Outstanding BBS Gateway to multiple information services	Bonnieville Power Administration WSE	North Charleston, SC
Duke Graphics of San Diego	(619)793-8360	7 CD Roms Online, 4 gigs 50,000 files	Brian Cash	Vancouver, BC
EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389	Wildlife/Conservation Art Gallery GIF Images	William R. Forbes	Olympia, WA
Ed-Net	(604)732-8877	Vancouver School Board Multi-Line Educational Network	US Department of Energy	Portland, OR
Electric Ideas Clearinghouse	(206)586-8854	Energy Efficiency Efforts in Pacific Northwest-HydroElec	Jim Maxey	Indiana, PA
Electronic Publishers BBS	(503)624-4966	News-Finance-Sports-Games-2GB File Library	Phil Becker/eSoft Inc.	Washington, D.C.
Electronic Zone, The	(412)349-3504	Specializing in Hypertext	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego, OR
Energy Info Admin E-Publications	(202)586-8858	Variety of Petroleum/Coal/Electricity Energy Statistics	Ron Olsen, Travis Hayes	Logan, UT
Entertainment & Graphics	(503)697-5100	Entertainment & Graphics	Bob and Tracey Mahoney	Elm Grove, WI
eSoft Product Support BBS	(303)699-8222	Home of The Bread Board System (TBBS) BBS Software	Andy Keeves	Mt. Vernon, NY
Event Horizons	(503)697-5100	64 Line Digitized Graphics Image Library - Adult GIF files		
Everton's On-Line Search	(801)752-5095	Searchable genealogy databases with 3,000,000 ancestor names		
EXEC-PC	(414)789-4210	Largest BBS in US - 280 Lines -650,000 files - 35 Gigabytes		
Executive Network	(914)667-24567	Interlink Netmail National Host - Multiline PCBoard System		

Service	Phone	Description	Sponsor/Sysop	Location
Eye Contact BBS	(415)255-5972	22 line Oracomm - Gay Issues - Popular Chat System	Bill Montgomery	Mill Valley, CA
FAA Flight Standards ASO-FSDO-15	(800)645-3736	FAA Flight Standards Publication & Info for the Aviation Com	FAA/Bill Hoenstine	Orlando, FL
Falken Support BBS	(703)803-8000	Support for FALKEN software - 16 lines - doors - chat	Herb Rose	Woodbridge, VA
Farwest BBS	(604)381-3934	Large Western Canada Galacticomm Info System	Ren L'Ecuier	Victoria, BC
FAX/Satellite Services BBS	(619)224-3853	NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics	Scotty Olson	San Diego, CA
FCC Public Access Link	(301)725-1072	Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service	Federal Communications Commission	Columbia, MD
FCC WORLD	(202)887-5718	FCC Documents', Forums	Smithwick & Belendiuk, P.C.	Washington, DC
FCC World	(202)887-5718	FCC policies, court decisions, and related matters to FCC	Smithwick & Belendiuk, P.C.	Washington DC, D.C.
FEDLINK ALIX II	(202)707-4888	Info on Federal Libraries -Excerpts Library of Congress News	J.J. van der Maas	Utrecht, HOLLAND
Fido Tech Stand	31-30-735900	Fidonet Technical Information for Holland	William Sims	Drayton Plains, MI
Fire & Ice	(313)373-8608	A Family BBS With Christians Discussions	Lloyd Davidson	Carroll, OH
Fisherman's Net	(614)837-0400	Dedicated to Fisherman	Bill Essex	San Francisco, CA
FOG City BBS 125/10	(415)863-9697	Gay Community BBS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACs	David Deutsch	Stanford, CT
Foundation Online Service	(203)968-8752	15+ Gigs 8 Lines Internet	Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin	Framingham, MA
Fred the Computer	(508)872-8461	Newspaper BBS. Wierdnet Newswire. List of MA Libraries	Bill Hunter	Midlothian, VA
FreeBoard BBS, The	(804)744-0797	Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212	Vincent Reece	Convalis, OR
Fun Connection	(503)753-8431	Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News	Galacticomm	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Galacticomm Demo System	(305)583-7808	Customer support for Major BBS	Dean Kerl & Simon Clement	Albuquerque, NM
Garbage Dump	(505)294-5675	Hottest Chat in America - National Access \$1.75 per Hour	Carol De Jesus	Irvine, CA
Gateway Communications BBS	(714)863-7097	Novell Network/TCP/IP Shareware Utilities	Jeff Breitner/Bill Mullen	Rockwood, MI
Gateway On-Line	(313)291-5571	Interactive Chat, Multiplayer Games, Usenet/Internet: E-mail	Tom Getty's	Lafayette, CO
GDP Technologies	(303)673-9470	Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system	Marc Teitler	San Diego, CA
General The	(619)281-8616	Popular File Library - GIF Images	Bill Thoen	Boulder, CO
GISnet BBS	(303)447-0927	Graphics Information Systems/Mapping topics	Community Educational Svcs. Foundation	Arlington, VA
GLIB	(703)578-4542	Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps	US Government Printing Office	Washington, DC
GPO WINDO Online Service	(202)512-1387	Fed Information from EPA, DOE, State Department - others.	Dick Dillman/Greenpeace	San Francisco, CA
Greenpeace Environet	(415)512-9108	Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife	David Ray	Scottsdale, AZ
Hackers R Us Online	(602)945-8416	Online Games, Files & Tech Discussions	Martin Beickie	Peoria, IL
Hackers World BBS	(309)672-4405	Adult Files, Fidonet Echo-Mail Adult-net	Monica Faulk	Houston, TX
Harris City Medical BBS	(713)790-1093	Medical Information	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross, GA
Hayes Advanced Systems Support	(800)874-2937	Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers. V-series/Ultra	Peoria County Board/Bradley University	Peoria, IL
Heartland Free-net	(309)674-1100	Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes	Mark Miller	Philadelphia, PA
Herpnet/Satronics TBBS	(215)698-1905	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Lee Winsor	New Hartford, CT
HH Info-Net BBS	(203)246-3747	MS Windows and OS2 Files our specialty	Information Access Technologies, Inc.	Berkeley, CA
HoloNet	(510)704-1058	National Access, INTERNET, USENET, CHAT, GIFS, FILES	Gene and Katie Hamilton	St. Michaels, MD
HouseNet BBS	(410)745-2037	Home Fixup/Repair/Renovation Tips, Advice, and Articles	Jim Howard	Kansas City, MO
Howard's Notebook 1:280/25	(816)331-5868	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Russell McOrmond	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Hysteric	(613)231-7144	MS Windows and OS2 Files our specialty	IBM National Support Center	Atlanta, GA
IBM National Support Center BBS	(404)835-5300	IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange	Harry Newton Publications	New York, NY
Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect	(212)989-4675	Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service	Charlie Scheiker	Orlando, FL
Infinite Space Online	(407)856-0021	32 Line Interactive Chat & Games Majornet	A-Comm Electronics Inc.	Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
InfoHost Demo BBS	(201)335-2253	Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database	Arthur Geffen	Dallas, TX
Inns of Court, The	(214)458-2620	LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/109	Intel Corporation PCEO Division	Hillsborough, OR
Intel PCEO Support BBS	(503)845-6275	Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286	Roger Brown	Spark, NV
Inter Comm	(702)359-2666	6 Line 5.5 Gig 30,000 Files	Patrik Beritsson	Hollywood, FL
InterMail Tech Support BBS	(305)436-1884	Home of InterMail, Front End Mailer for FidoNet 1:369/102	Mike Sussell	New York, NY
Invention Factory	(212)274-8110	46 Lines - 100 Directories - Full Usenet Feed - 8.2 GB	Don Shepherdson	Bellevue, WA
Investor's Online Data	(206)285-5359	Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis	JDR Microdevices	San Jose, CA
JOBBS	(408)494-1430	Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes	Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin	Roswell, GA
Keith Graham Shareware Support	(404)982-8937	Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps.	Keith P. Graham	Netack, NY
KIMBERELY BBS	(914)623-0039	OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	Minneapolis, MN
King's Market BBS 104/115	(612)340-2489	Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discount Rate-Economic Data	Jim and Karen Burt	Boulder, CO
Knight Vision BBS	(303)665-6091	400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support	Matthew Beeby	Pasadena, CA
Lace's Place	(213)344-3600	Chees and Backgammon - 8 lines - "Intelligent Entertainment"	Ellen Grogan	New York City, NY
	(718)822-3552	Female Domination Adult BBS online since 7/91		

LANtastic BBS	(602)293-8065	Support for LANtastic local area network	Artisoft Inc.	Tucson, AZ
LegalFase	(415)695-0759	Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to UUCP/Usenet	Tim Pozar	San Francisco, CA
LICA Limbs BBS	(509)326-3338	Legal Issues/Forms - Law BBS List	Bill Sorcielli	Spokane, WA
Lincoln Cabin BBS	(516)561-6590	Member written software PC Board 15.0 USR HST Since 1980	Dave Minott	Valley Stream, NY
MAC-LINK	(415)752-4490	General Interests & Rime	Steve Pomerantz	San Francisco, CA
Macalot Bulletin Board	(514)486-8959	Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Infomat/BIX	Mark Smith	Montreal QUEBEC
MacCircles	(412)846-5312	Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh	Jeff Driggs/FreeSoft Company	Beaver Falls, PA
Macintosh	(303)526-2219	Mac System Software distributor, mail, sigs, files	Patricia O'Connor	Golden, CO
Magpie BBS	(803)798-3755	Macintosh support since April '85. FirstClass BBS	Ralph Yount	Columbia, SC
Mariners Bulletin Board	(212)420-0527	Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software	Steve Manes	New York, NY
MaxiHost Support BBS	(708)866-8237	Information for boaters and sailors. Covers Lake Michigan	Bob Loonsbury	Evanston, IL
Mayan Antiquities	(209)836-2402	MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS	Don Mankin	San Ramon, CA
McFee Associates BBS	(214)691-1316	Mayan Culture and Antiquities	Ron Whipple	Dallas, TX
Med Technet	(408)988-4004	Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP	John McAfee/CVIA	Santa Clara, CA
Medi-Call BBS	(716)688-1552	Educational research for Clinical Laboratory professionals	Gordon Huick	East Amherst, NY
Meeting Works, The	(818)330-1739	Active 2 lines PubSvC w/ 120 netmail confs., & GIGs of Files	John Mackenzie	La Puenet, CA
METRO Online Entertainment	(212)731-6932	Meeting/seminar/convention planning information.	Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services	New York, NY
Micro Foundry, The	(212)831-9280	32 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat	Bill Hliwa	New York City, NY
Micro Message Service	(415)588-0398	2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch	Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software	San Jose, CA
Micromic Technical Support BBS	(919)779-6674	USA Today/Boxoffice Magazine - Large Download Area	Mike Stroud	Raleigh, NC
Microsoft Download BBS	(206)649-9836	Support for Popular R-Base Relational Data Base System	Micromic Corporation	Redmond, WA
Microsystems Software Inc.	(206)936-6735	Windows Technical Notes and Support Information	Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker	Bellevue, WA
MindVox	(508)875-8009	HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities	MSI - Reed Lewis	Framingham, MA
Minnesota Space Frontier	(212)989-4141	Internet Access, E-Mail, Newsgroups, ftp/telnet	Phantom Access Technologies	New York, NY
MOG-URS EMS, The	(612)459-0892	Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News	Ben Husset	Minneapolis, MN
Monterey Gaming System	(818)366-1238	5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HST/V.32	Tom Tsimidis	Granada Hills, CA
Mountain Air BBS	(408)655-5555	A Custom Multi-user BBS with Conferencing and Custom Games	David Janakes	Monterey, CA
Movie BBS	(703)427-0226	Adult Based BBS	Clarke Ulmer	Roanoke, VA
Mustang Software	(718)939-5462	Movie Reviews and Information - Television	MSI Sysop	Gainsville, FL
N.A.C.D. BBS	(805)873-2400	Support for Mustang Software Products	National Assoc. of Cave Divers	Westerville, OH
N8EMR Ham BBS	(614)895-2553	Cave Scuba Diving - Superb Special Topic System	Gary Sanders	Topeka, KS
Namur BBS	(913)273-1550	login:hbbs HAM Radio/AMSSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet	Rob Nall	Nepean, ONTARIO
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	(613)727-5272	Amateur Radio Interests	MicroStar Corp.	Huntsville, AL
NASA Spacecelink	(205)895-0028	NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software	Marshall Space Flight Center	Nashville, TN
Nashville Exchange	(615)383-0727	NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History	Ben Cunningham	Arlington, VA
National Genealogical BBS	(703)528-2613	12 line TBBS - Games/TDBBS Software Development 1.8 GB	National Genealogical Society	San Jose, CA
Netcom Internet Guest System	(408)241-9760	Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting	Netcom Online Communications Services	Framingham, MA
Network World Bulletin Board	(508)620-1178	Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info.	Network World Magazine	Frederickton, NB
Newbed	(506)453-2147	LAN and WAN Issues and Technology	William Bridges	Huntsville, AL
Newtown Express BBS	(215)943-6806	Educational System K12 Net	Anthony Maglietta	Nashville, TN
Night Shift, The	(818)955-5155	14.5 Gigs/700+Sig 18 Lines Large Adult Section USA Today	Charles Hilt	Arlington, VA
NIST ACTS	(303)494-4775	Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Boulder, CO
NOAA Space Environment Lab	(313)591-0903	Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online	National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin	Boulder, CO
NoGate Consulting	(507)281-8292	Home of PAK archive utility	Mike Neuhuis Gus Smedstad	Grand Rapids, MI
North Castle BBS	(919)541-5742	Minnesota #1 RPG BBS	Rob Richter	Rochester, MN
O&E Online	(404)627-2662	Free Community BBS, Editorial Text from Newspapers	Greg Day	Livonia, MI
OAQPSSTN	(212)385-2034	Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net	Environmental Protection Agency	Rsrch Triangle Park, NC
OASIS BBS	(818)358-6968	Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL	Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society	Decatur, GA
Occupational Health/Safety BBS	(800)222-4922	Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers	Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts	New York, NY
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OERI BBS	(807)345-5522	Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads	Michael Allen	Monrovia, CA
Old Colorado City Communications	(404)446-6336	Editorial Statistics and Data - Performance Stats -	US Department of Education	Washington, D.C.
Online Now	(610)260-6222	Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline	Dave Hughes	Colorado Springs, CO
Online With Hayes	(404)446-6336	Canada's shareware house is online now	Gary Walsh/Tom Haavisto	Thunder Bay, ONTARIO
Oracle PC	(610)260-6222	Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross, GA
		South Australian TBBS Multiline System	Don Cragg	Pooraka South Australia

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Oracom Support BBS	(612)894-5879	Sales and Support for Oracom Multiline BBS Software	Surf Computer Services	Minneapolis, MN
Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036	Birdwatching, Bird Feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues	Fran and Norm Saunders	Colesville, MD
Ozone Hole, The	(504)891-3142	Boardwatch-USA Today-Internet-Usenet-RIME	Mike Mathews	New Orleans, LA
P.D.S.L.O. BBS	(516)938-6722	Home of THE LIST National BBS List	James Toro	Hicksville, NY
PacComm BBS	(813)874-3078	Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems	Gwyn Reedy/PacCom Inc.	Tampa, FL
Pacific Rim BBS	(619)274-7361	Message areas, Technical Support	Brenda Donovan, Paul Adams	San Diego, CA
PC Junction BBS	(615)478-2890	Smartnet Throben 100,000 Files & Online Magazines	Douglas Carpenter	Cleveland, TN
PC-Ohio	(216)381-3320	Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 50 lines	Norm Henke	Cleveland, OH
Pennywise	(800)752-3012	Online Office Supply Sales Service	Pennywise	Edmonton, MD
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PKWare BBS	(414)354-48670	Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility	Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated	Glendale, WI
Pleasure Dome	(804)490-5878	Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only	Tom Terrific	Tidewater, VA
Practical Peripherals BBS	(805)496-4445	Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems	Practical Peripherals	West Lake Village, CA
ProComm Support BBS	(314)875-0503	Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgrms	Thomas Smith/DataStorm Technologies Inc.	Columbia, MO
Promised Land, The	(715)387-1339	16-Line/2.5GB/1,000+ Files/WINDOWS, Chat & More	Tim Brown/Computer Solutions	Indianapolis, IN
Public Brand Software BBS	(317)886-2087	Commercial Shareware Vendor	Public Brand Software	Marshfield, WI
Public Connection	(817)738-7336	Public Files	Joe Coles	Ft Worth, TX
QMall Deluxe Support BBS	(615)230-8822	Support for QMall Deluxe and 1stReader offline mail util	Mark (Sparky) Herring	Germantown, TN
Qualitas, Inc. BBS	(301)907-8030	386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support	Qualitas Inc.	Bethesda, MD
Quarterdeck BBS	(310)314-3227	Technical Support for QEMM, DESQview, all Quarterdeck Prods	Quarterdeck Office Systems	Santa Monica, CA
QuickBBS Support BBS	(407)886-0494	Product Support for QuickBBS Software	Richard Creighton/Steve Gabrilowitz	Orlando, FL
Random Access Information Svc.	(503)695-3250	11,000 GIF Images - 20,000 DOS/Windows Shareware Files	Janice Stevens	Corbett, OR
RoboBOARD/DFX	(819)682-7771	RoboBOARD Support 8 Lines	Hamilton TeleGraphics Inc.	Aylmer, PQ
Ronin BBS	(214)938-2840	Traditional File and Message BBS	Chuck Mattern	Red Oak, TX
Rose Media	(416)733-2780	19 GB - Home of Rosemail - Publications/Conferences	Vic Kass	Willowdale, ONTARIO
Rusty & Edies	(216)726-0737	Large ML PCBoard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Traedewars	Rusty and Edwina Hardenburgh	Boardman, OH
Sahara Club BBS	(818)893-1899	Land-Use issues, Off-Road, Timber, Conservation	Patrick Martin/Sahara Club	North Hills, CA
Salt Air BBS	(801)281-8976	Home of PCBoard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys	Clark Development Company/David Terry	Murray, UT
San Diego NeXT User's Group	(619)446-2522	Support for NeXT Computers	Brian Dear/San Diego NeXT User's Group	San Diego, CA
SBA Online	(800)697-4636	Advice for Small Business Owners on Financing/Management	Small Business Administration	Washington, DC
Science Resource Studies BBS	(202)634-1764	Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics	National Science Foundation	Washington, D.C.
SDN Project, The	(203)634-0370	The Original Software Distribution Network	Ray Kalisz	Meriden, CT
SEABoard	(804)442-6047	Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software.	Seagate/Bill Rudok	Nassawadox, VA
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SemWare Support BBS	(404)641-8968	Home of QEdit - A Super Shareware Text Editor	Debbi McKay	Marietta, GA
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SIGCAT BBS	(703)648-4168	CD-ROM /Optical Publishing Info - Lists of Gov. CD Data	SIG on CD-ROM Applications and Technol.	Gathersburg, MD
Sistema Profesional Informacion	(525)590-5988	Largest BBS in Mexico - Spanish Language TBBS	Tecnologia Uno Cero S.A. de C.V.	Mexico City,
Skeleton Closet, The	(804)671-8547	Genealogy Programs File Distribution Net 1.27/1/23	Debbi McKay	Virginia Beach, VA
Software Creations BBS	(703)522-3299	STC Job Service, Freelance Registry - Technical Writers	Society for Technical Communication	Washington, D.C.
Sound Advice BBS	(508)336-4137	Home of Apoge Software/Commander Keen Series	Dan Linton	Clinton, MA
Space BBS	(816)436-4516	Source code - large LINUX file collection	Roy Timberman	Gladstone, MO
Spark*Net	(718)447-5544	Multi Node BBSs for Engineers	Erik VanRiper	Bay Shore, NY
Spectrum Online Systems	(719)576-5853	Internet E-Mail, Worldlink, Chat, Games, Forums, Files	Owen Hawkins	Menlo Park, CA
Star Tech BBS	(714)257-1175	Graphics Based Service, Full Internet Access	John Spark	New York City, NY
Star-Link Network BBS	(718)972-6099	LA/Orange local access Fidonet hub, file echos, and internet	Chris Phillips	Colorado Springs, CO
Starlink BBS	(913)238-4818	9-nodes, 2.1GB, llink, 75,000 programs	David Unfried	Orange County, CA
StarLink Information Services	(502)964-7327	Technical Support for Predictive Maint Customers	Michael Keylin	Brooklyn, NY
State and Local Emergency Mgmt.	(202)646-2887	Online Travel Service, Internet Movie Reviews & Weather	John Land	Sweetwater, TX
		Hazardous Materials/National Dam Watch/Emergency Info	Scott Goldbach	Louisville, KY
		Federal Emergency Management Agency		Washington, D.C.

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STSC BBS	Software Engineering, Government & Software Organizations	George A. Klipper
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TEAMate Unix Bulletin Board	Demo/Support for TEAMate BBS Software for Unix	Bob Baskerville/MMB Development Corp.
Telebit Support BBS	Support for Telebit Modems	Telebit Corp.
Telegodzilla	Home of ZModem File Transfer Protocol/YModem/YAM	Chuck Forsberg/Omen Technology Incorp.
Telepath	DBMS/Dr. Dobbs Journal Magazine Online Service	M&T Publishing
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The Back Room	America's Largest Exclusively Gay DB - Home of Gaycomm	Fred Kohn
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TurBoard	NAPLPS Graphics BBS System	Carson Hanrahan
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U.S. Robotics - Sit UBU Sit	(408)847-7910	Phil Intravia
US Naval Observatory BBS	UFO sitings, documents, GIFs...	Phil Intravia
USDOE BBS	Support for US Robotics HST 9600 bps Modems	U.S. Robotics Corporation
USGS Quick Epicenter Determin.	Time - Date - Sunrise - Sunset - Enter @TCO for Commands	US Department of Commerce
USNO Time of Day for Clocks	Currently available grants and contracts for Education	U.S. Dept. of Education/George Wagner
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WeatherBank	Xmits ASCII Time String - Sync Your PC to USNO Atomic Clock	US Naval Observatory
Western Digital Tech Support	Online Library Card Catalog Listing 3.5 million entries	University of Texas at Austin
Westside, The	Online Weather Forecasts for Any City - Download Radar Data	Steve Root/WeatherBrief Data Services
Wildcat HQ BBS 210/12	Hard Drive/Controller Installation and Config Data	Western Digital Corporation
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Word Perfect Customer Support	(805)873-2400	Jim Taylor
World Data Network Online	(203)688-4973	Joseph G. Balshone
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	(805)546-9150	Support for XTree Pro Gold DOS Shell Program
	(508)667-5669	Support for XyWrite Word Processor - Custom Keyboard Files
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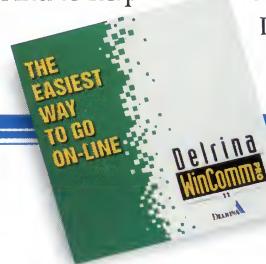


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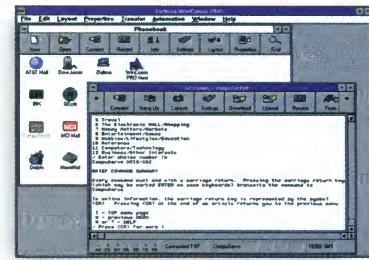
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December 1994



May 30, 1994

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*Picture shows complete 16 user TBBS/TDBS System.



DVORAK ONLINE

by John C. Dvorak

i.e. - IDIOTS EVERYWHERE

Are they idiots or just people who mean well? I suppose we may as well get used to naive do-gooders thinking they are making life better for the rest of us fools by forming special interest groups to advise lawmakers about the way things oughta be.

In addition to his weekly syndicated radio call-in show, "Software/Hard-talk," syndicated newspaper columns, magazine writing for *MacUser*, *PC Computing*, *DEC Professional*, *Information Technology*, and his featured "Inside Track" column in *PC Magazine*, Dvorak is the author of several best-selling books, including *Dvorak's Inside Track to DOS & PC Performance*, *Dvorak's Guide to PC Telecommunications*, and *Dvorak's Inside Track to the Mac*.

I'm referring to a group calling itself the California Alliance for Consumer Protection. The document in circulation is dubbed, "Bulletin Board Consumer Protection Package — 1995 - 1996 Legislative Session." It's horrid. I should mention here that last April for PC/Computing I did an April Fool's column about stupid legislation. That was a joke, this is not. Also, note, it's not April.

This proposal for legislation was brought to my attention by a high-tech Sacramento lobbyist, Charles "Chuck" Halnan, who was stunned by the fact that no computer company, commercial BBS system nor any of the big info utilities such as CIS or AOL realize that this proposal is being passed around Sacramento and can be turned into law early next year. While some computer-related organizations have lobbyists in Washington to look out for the interests of large companies, even those large companies don't watch the store when it comes to potentially crippling legislation at the state level. (Call Halnan for more details at (916)447-6006, FAX (916)441-6504.)

So this group wants to legislate BBSs because they pose a potential threat to society. In an open letter to the State legislators the group describes BBSs and how positive they are (currently) as a part of society. Then the following quote is thrown out: "Wouldn't you know it, that within this seemingly Eden-like new world, Bulletin Board users are at risk in a number of ways, and it's time to do something about it before it gets out of control." Very inflammatory language. "Wouldn't you know it" is a giveaway. Yes, Mary, things aren't rosy at all... "wouldn't you know it." It's not great at all. In fact it's ONLY "seemingly" Eden-like. It's not Eden. It's not Eden-like. It's "seemingly" Eden-like. Gosh even seemingly Eden would be better than that. Personally, if I was writing this propaganda I'd say "Faux Eden." Seems more poetic. And of course, users are at risk and gosh darn we'd better do something FAST!

Aside: Let's try this concept on for size. Imagine a different time, a different place, a different society. Here's what you suddenly hear. "Telephones are great, they let people talk to each other. But, folks, these phones are not what they seem. Users are at

risk. If we don't do something fast people will use the phone for all sorts of terrible things. Can you imagine what would happen to society if they begin to discuss movies on the phone! Something has to be done before it's too late!"

Okay, so let's get back to these jokers. The letter goes on to outline the main issues. The first says that what you say on a BBS or (get this) what someone says USING YOUR NAME can be used against you in criminal proceedings. Oh brother. The second point is that your name can be put on all sorts of terrible mailing lists just because you may have stumbled onto some porn forum (or worse). They also say there is no parental control of BBSs and kids can get on and see dirty pictures. Exactly how any sort of legislation would stop this remains a mystery. The final point, though, was the most interesting and ominous. It reads simply, "It is not illegal to stalk someone through a BBS."

Now think about this for a minute. Tell this stuff to bonehead lawmakers who don't know a computer BBS from a grocery store cash register. Exactly how anyone could possibly stalk someone through a BBS is yet another mystery. They can ask someone for their phone number, sure. But they can do that if they meet them in a park too. I mean, what are we getting at here?

The best I can figure is that someone saw one too many tabloid TV shows where I remember hearing one clueless sheriff boldly say that as far as he could tell (and having done no research whatsoever) 10% of all BBS users are perverts! Eeeeh.

Back to the BBS Protection document. The group mentions that weirdo group called NAMBLA — the man-boy pedophile club that seems to have the attention of the media in California where they keep wanting to meet in public libraries. They were busted by a news crew in San Francisco after the San Francisco library gave them a room to meet. The cameras busted in on about six old farts who were presumably discussing their affairs or who knows what. Upon seeing the camera, they all fled. It was pathetic. So I reckon that this citizens action group is preoccupied with the potential that BBSs can be used for perverted purposes (other than collecting gifs, that is).

The fact is that computers hooked to modems are nothing more than communication vehicles. Heaven forbid that some naive legislation drive all the BBSs underground or create it so you cannot even put your machine in HOST mode!! The fact is that these

people that advocate such legislation have no clue. And, worse, they are dangerous. Sysops, do something, before it's too late!

ON ANOTHER TOPIC

So, as I write this I'm in Paris to look over the Interop show held here each year. Every time I come to Europe (or travel anywhere for that matter) I am reminded that it is very hard to connect when overseas. I was stunned by the fact that there is both a local CIS node in Paris (phone **47-89-39-40**) and a local MCI number (**43-42-15-25**) and both operate at 14.4 kbps. I still couldn't manage to hook directly online even though I have one of those offbeat French phone connections. Luckily I always travel with my Konexx acoustic coupler - (model 204, from Unlimited Systems in San Diego). It actually operates at 14.4 Kbps error-free. I was stunned.

Anyway, I got these numbers from Earle Robinson of the IBMEUR CompuServe forum and this is not a bad forum to join if you use CIS. I find that when I travel I have to use USA direct far too much and seldom get good line quality despite the claims. Worse, on a recent trip to the Mideast I called my MCI San Francisco box about a half dozen times before I could get a decent connection using USA direct. Because of the redials some computer program was tripped and my phone credit card was canceled on the spot! When I called AT&T they told me it was a Pacific Bell computer that did it. When I called Pacific Bell they told me to call AT&T. I was told that when a slew of calls are made in a row some computer assumes it's a stolen card. This despite the fact that it is to the same number and for short durations. Let me say that I was not too pleased since you can't use USA direct (or anything for that matter) once you lose use of your card. I recommend having two numbers to which you can bill. Let me tell you I was very happy to find local numbers for these services. ♦

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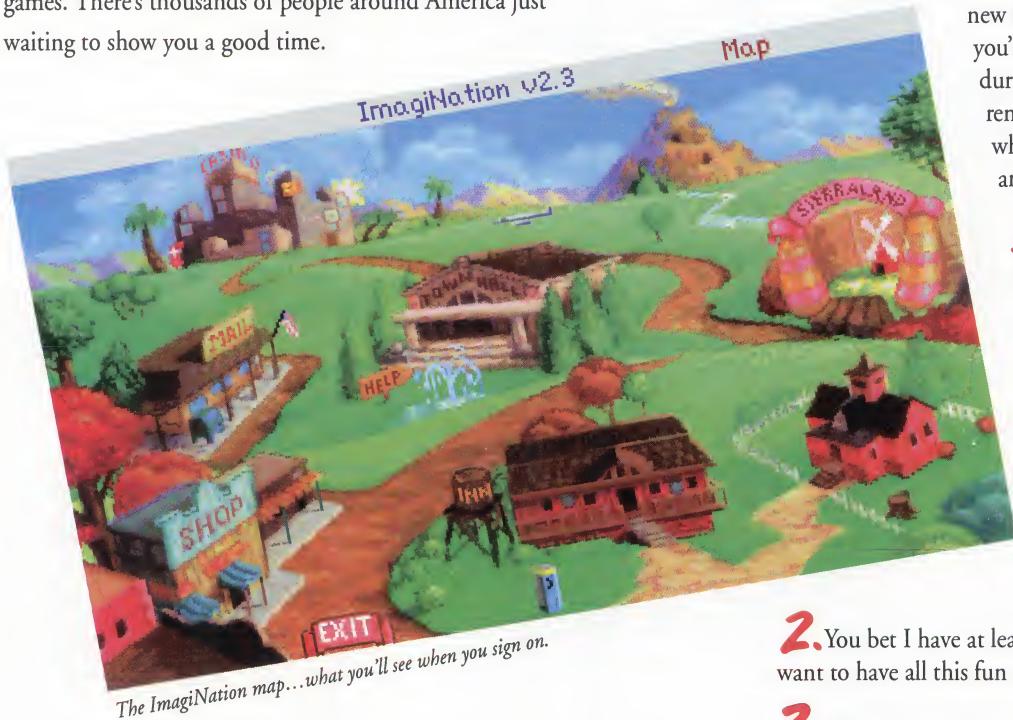
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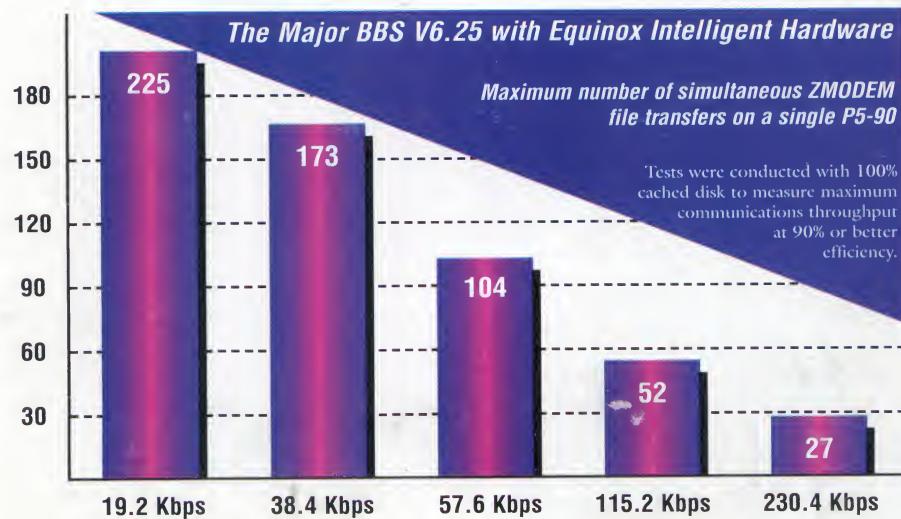
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Voice Recognition	Yes	Yes
Jumper Switches	No	Yes
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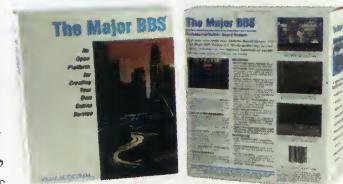
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